

THE AMERICAN

# LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

## Our Armed Forces: Do We Have The Right Mix?

- ★ Gen. John A. Wickham, USA
- ★ Adm. James D. Watkins, USN
- ★ Gen. Paul X. Kelley, USMC
- ★ Gen. Charles A. Gabriel, USAF

## A Special Assessment

- ★ Adm. Hyman G. Rickover

*Executive Division*

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# THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 117, Number 5

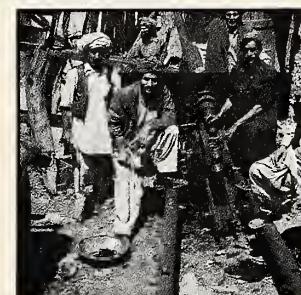
November, 1984

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**THE COVER**  
*A salute to the armed forces.* Illustration by David Noyes



THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.5 million members. These military-service veterans, working through 16,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; a strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service, and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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MAGAZINE

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

**CUNARD PRINCESS**

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## Water

The author of "Water, Water . . . Nowhere" (September), should have researched his subject more thoroughly.

In 1975, the geologic staff of the U.S. Department of the Interior conducted a study to discover whether septic tanks contaminate or divert the ground waters that feed Miami Bay and its tributaries. Although about 19,000 soil and/or water samples were taken, not one instance was found where septic tanks were the culprit.

*Bruce L. Holly Sr.  
Naples, Fla.*

## Veterans' Jobs

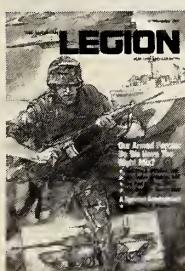
The September issue's focus on employment was most welcome, for there is no issue more important to veterans, particularly Vietnam and Vietnam-Era veterans, than employment.

Veterans must be able to provide for their families with dignity in jobs that challenge their skills and abilities. To do that, we must have a strong economy. Economic and small business development, therefore, must continue to be a priority at all levels of our great organization.

*Bob Bishop  
Jeannette, Pa.*

Your article, "Finding Jobs For Veterans" (September), should extend to all veterans, not just recent ones.

## A Salute to the Armed Forces ... and Our Veterans



"America Is No. 1,  
Thanks to Our  
Veterans."

This Veterans Administration slogan has special meaning this November as the nation again observes Veterans Day. The day also had special meaning to the staff of THE AMERICAN

LEGION MAGAZINE as, long ago, we began laying plans for this issue.

Since we regularly cover the more important developments affecting veterans, we decided we could best serve our readers' interests by putting together an in-depth report on the state of America's military services. Obviously, few subjects are more

This article and others like it don't mention that age is a handicap when seeking employment. If you're a 60-year-old veteran looking for work, forget it. I know. After nine months of looking, I still haven't found a job.

*Russell E. Schram  
Lebanon, N.J.*

## A Few Kind Words

Joseph C. Keeley's "A Few Kind Words For Uncle Sam" (September) should be required reading for every person in the U.S. However, there is one time when someone came to Americans' aid: when the Canadians helped (hid) some of our people in Iran during the hostage crisis.

*Mrs. C. W. Mattox  
Port Townsend, Wa.*

Keeley's commentary is refreshing. It reminded us of a bit of recent history, which the present generation seems not to have learned. By reading this masterpiece, many of our critics may be relieved of some of the blindness that obstructs their vision.

*James B. White  
Los Gatos, Calif.*

I can name one country that spilled more of its son's blood than all of the other countries put together . . . Ireland. That country sent to Gen. Wash-

*Continued on page 49*

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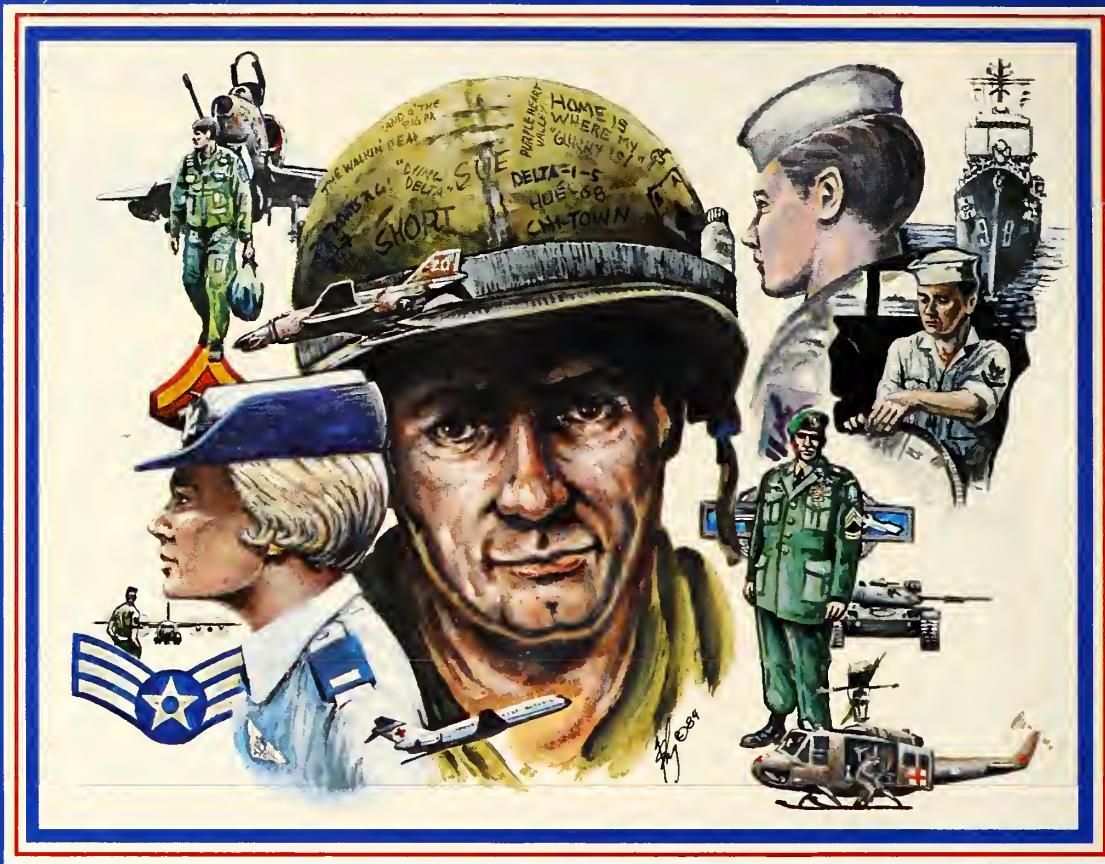
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## Next to Defense, America's Veterans Must Rank First

In the United States, democracy and the veteran are inextricably bound. The veteran has preserved our democracy in time of war. Our democratic government has provided veteran's rights. Public focus this month is on both democracy and our nation's veterans.

We will soon elect a president to serve for the next four years and elect senators and representatives who will constitute the 99th Congress.

In Washington, D.C., hundreds of thousands of veterans will observe a Vietnam Veterans National Salute II. They will attend Washington area events on Veterans Day weekend and witness the unveiling of a statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Nov. 11.

I pointed out the link between these events in my testimony before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees recently. Veterans answered the call to defend our nation.

It was their first priority; it is The American Legion's first priority. And, while ranking veterans affairs second to national defense among our national priorities may be questioned by some, it simply recognizes the government's obligations to those who performed the highest duty of citizenship. It also recognizes that reasonable benefits and services to veterans constitute a federal responsibility.

I told both committees The American Legion generally is pleased with the fiscal year 1985 VA budget of \$27.2 billion. It is the largest appropriation ever for veterans' programs, yet it represents less than 3 percent of federal expenditures for the fiscal year.

The point: Veterans' programs do not consume an increasing share of the federal dollar. We expect the 99th Congress and the president to recognize the efficacy of VA expenditures and develop an adequate VA budget for fiscal year 1986.

Hand in glove with an adequate budget is upgrading current medical



Natl. Cdr. Clarence M. Bacon

facilities and funding for major construction projects. We approve of the nearly \$1 billion in combined funding for major and minor construction projects for this fiscal year.

This construction and upgrading is absolutely essential to meet the ever-expanding need for top-grade medical care delivery to veterans who need it now—and for those who are entering their twilight years.

The aging veteran population is growing in geometric proportions. There are 10.7 million WWII veterans with an average age of 64 years. More important, by the year 2010 the total veteran population over age 65 will be 12 million. Geriatric research and the provision of extended health care and medical services by the VA must be undertaken immediately.

Not to be ignored are the constant questions surrounding the consequences of service in Vietnam. I told the House and Senate committees that we intend to honor our commitment to the welfare of all veterans.

The 99th Congress must enact legislation that allows a presumption of

service connection for those disabilities scientifically traced to Agent Orange exposure.

We will not accept attitudes from VA employees who are unsympathetic to Vietnam veterans' special problems. We will take whatever action necessary to identify physicians or adjudicators who refuse to acknowledge Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a pathological condition. And we encourage the expansion of PTSD units and the creation of a national center for PTSD research and health-care training.

The special needs of examination and health care for the woman veteran also have been a primary focus in recent years. We are heartened by the efforts directed toward health-care techniques involving privacy of treatment and an awareness of gender-related disorders. We intend to see these veterans receive their full range of benefits and services.

The persistent problem of veteran unemployment also will be a priority item on The American Legion agenda for the 99th Congress. So far, great strides have been made: the creation of an assistant secretary of labor for veterans employment and training; enactment of the Jobs Training Partnership Act and the Emergency Veterans Jobs Training program; reauthorization of the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit program and the Veterans Reappointment Authority; and continuing efforts to restrict contracting out certain veterans' jobs.

Our next president and our 99th Congress may look to us for any assistance to maintain the best possible programs of benefits and services for veterans. As an organization comprising veterans from all four wars in which the United States has been involved in during the 20th Century, The American Legion will continue to promote the interests of all our nation's veterans. □

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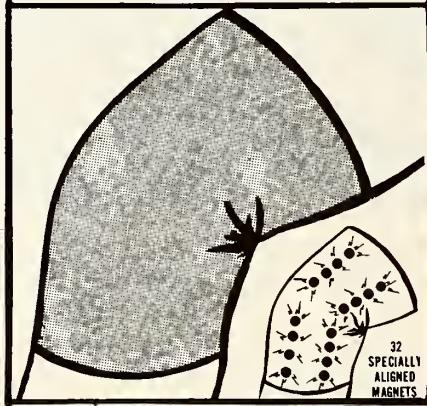
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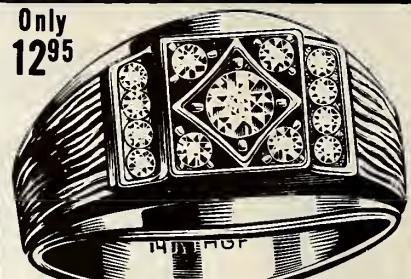


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## Russia Arms the Third World

Russia may have trouble producing sufficient wheat to feed its people, but seems to have no trouble at all turning out tanks, artillery, submarines, supersonic warplanes, missiles and other arms for its Third World clients.

In fact, since the mid-'50s, Moscow and its satellites have signed contracts for \$98 billion worth of military weapons and equipment, according to a Pentagon study.

Over the past decade, the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies have been pouring arms mainly into the Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa, amounting to 60 percent of the Red military exports to the Third World. Another 25 percent of the armaments are being shipped to Cuba, India, Vietnam and Ethiopia.

More recently, Russia has greatly expanded its weapons and equipment deliveries to Latin America, the survey found. Munitions went to Cuba, Nicaragua, Peru and, before the U.S. stepped in, Grenada. Libya and Syria receive most of Moscow's arms.

## Pentagon Fights Fraud

The days of \$400 claw hammers, \$100 diodes and \$1,100 plastic stool caps for the Pentagon are over, said Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, who has been fighting for over three years to bring the overcharge situation under control. During the past year, Weinberger disclosed, DoD has obtained 657 convictions—almost twice as many as the previous year—and fines totaling over \$14 million against fraudulent contractors.

Putting an end to the outrageous prices is not an easy task. DoD has an inventory of over four million different items. One aircraft engine alone has over 30,000 small parts.

Over 400 auditors have been working the past three years in various parts of the world, and most have found that inefficiency is the problem and not fraud, Weinberger said. Improving information and providing incentives to employees are just two steps DoD is taking to solve the spare parts problem.

## Elections on Sunday?

In a move to entice more voters to the polls, Rep. Mario Biaggi, D.-N.Y., has introduced legislation that would change national election day from Tuesday to Sunday. Polls would open at 3 p.m. (EDT) and stay open for 24 hours.

Under the current system, 80 percent of the normal 13-hour voting period falls during the time most of our country's employed are either on the job or commuting to and from the work place, said Biaggi. Extending the hours will make peak voting periods more convenient.

The 1980 election brought out a little more than half of the eligible voters in our country, which was the lowest number in 32 years, according to the congressman. In non-presidential election years the figure is far lower with

only a little more than 38 percent. In comparison, Biaggi stated, 28 western democracies managed a turnout of over 80 percent, and of those countries 17 voted on Sunday or both Sunday and Monday.

## Constitutional Convention

There's been increasing discussion in Washington, and around the nation, over two issues which may begin to come together in 1985:

- What to do about the nation's vast deficit?
- Should the Constitution be amended to compel Congress to balance the annual budget?

An impending third issue, a constitutional convention, could well resolve the first two issues. Already 32 state legislatures have voted in favor of the constitutional convention, and advocates are confident the requisite two additional states will come through in 1985.

Main thrust comes from the national movement for a balanced budget. However, there is fear that the convention can be led into adopting other amendments on highly controversial issues such as abortion.

The convention, however, can only initiate the process for amending the Constitution. Any proposal of the convention must then be submitted to the legislature for ratification by a minimum of 34 states.

## Illicit Drugs Slip Net

Despite U.S. agents boarding some 376 ocean vessels and making more than 1,000 drug-related arrests in 1983, only a fraction of the illegal drugs slipped into our country are confiscated, U.S. Customs Commissioner William von Raab informed a House subcommittee.

Today's maritime smuggling threat is estimated at over 25 million pounds of marijuana and 27,000 pounds of cocaine. In 1983 the patrol seized 4,731 pounds of cocaine and 2 million pounds of marijuana worth over \$3 billion.

Customs operates 60 marine stations in six regions, employs 804 persons, and is responsible for intercepting drug smugglers within the nation's 12-mile territorial limit. Beyond that limit, the Coast Guard takes over.

Under current law, vessels entering U.S. waters are not required to report directly to a customs port. Raab noted that each boat has up to 24 hours to declare entry, which can be done by any form of communication, thus providing smugglers plenty of time to conduct nefarious activities before reporting to Customs.

## Quote of the Month

"When Congress talks of tax reform, grab your wallet and run for cover."

*Sen. Steve Symms, Idaho*

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One glance shows they bring you big savings on potent vitamins and organic minerals! But please act now while these low prices are in effect. It's easy to order.

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Free Offer  
ends Nov. 30, 1984



Enclose Coupons Below With Order.

MAIL ORDER COUPON

1,000 Mg.

**VITAMIN C**  
with Rose Hips

100 **1.98**  
For

Limit One of Any Size to a Family

500 for 9.49

1000 for 17.98

N423 Expires 11/30/84

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10 Mg.

**ZINC**  
**39¢**

Limit One of Any Size to a Family

500 for 1.89

1000 for 3.49

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**GINSENG**  
250 mg. Tablets

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For

Limit One of Any Size to a Family

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MAIL ORDER COUPON

**LOW LEAD CALCIUM**

CALCIUM is essential—but some calciums have been found high in lead. This balanced calcium is laboratory-tested to have a low SAFE-lead level.

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19 Grain Capsules

100 Capsules **1.49**

300 for 3.98 Limit One of Any Size to a Family

600 for 6.85

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MAIL ORDER COUPON

**Garlic Oil** Capsules

100 **68¢**

500 for 3.28 Limit One of Any Size to a Family

1000 for 6.39 to a Family

N423 Expires 11/30/84

MAIL ORDER COUPON

**Our "Top-B"  
B-Complex "50"**

Famous Formula at a Sensational Low Price!

Every capsule contains 50 mg. B1, B2, B6, Niacinamide, Panto. Acid, Choline, Inositol, 50mcg. B12, Biotin, 50mg. Paba, 100 mcg. Folic Acid.

50 **1.89**

Limit One of Any Size to a Family

100 for 3.49

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MAIL ORDER COUPON

**ALOE VERA  
JUICE**

All Natural Non-Pasteurized  
CDDG Stabilized Process

Aloe Vera has been known, used, and trusted since the dawn of man's history. The Aloe Vera leaves are hand-filleted to insure that all the desirable properties are retained without the Aloin and bitterness.

SUGGESTED USE: Two ounces with each meal.

Quart \$2.98 Gallon \$9.95

GUARANTEED NO ADDED SUGAR, STARCH, ARTIFICIAL COLORS, OR IMITATION FLAVORS

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Special Low Prices on these  
COMPARE THESE PRICES WITH  
THOSE YOU ARE NOW PAYING!

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LIQUID COD LIVER OIL—8 oz for 1.95, 16 oz for 3.70

BREWERS YEAST FLAKES—1 lb for 1.95, 3 lbs for 5.50

DESSICATED LIVER TABLETS—100 for 89¢, 500 for 4.19

500 MG. BEE POLLEN TABLETS—100 for 2.19, 500 for 9.50

Max. EPA\* CAPSULES—50 for 4.49, 100 for 8.75

500 MG. BRAN TABLETS—100 for 65¢, 500 for 2.98

KELP TABLETS—100 for 49¢, 1000 for 2.49

500 MG. L-LYSINE—100 for 1.98, 300 for 5.50

500 MG. L-TRYPTOPHANE—30 for 3.99, 60 for 7.50

100 MCG. SELENIUM—100 for 2.98, 250 for 5.75

EVENING PRIMROSE OIL CAPSULES—50 for 4.98, 100 for 8.50

25,000 UNIT BETA-CAROTENE—100 for 2.95, 250 for 6.75

50 MG. CHELATED ZINC—100 for 1.79, 500 for 7.25

PAPAYA ENZYME—250 for 1.65, 600 for 2.89

LIQUID VIT. E IN DROPPER BOTTLE—2 oz for 2.95, 2 for 5.50

ACTIVATED CHARCOAL CAPSULES—30 for 4.99, 100 for 3.98

VEGETABLE LAXATIVE POWDER—Plain or Orange—14 oz can 2.98

SAVE UP TO 70% ON OUR FORMULAS

Our Name Compare to 100 for 500 for

There Min Theragran M® 1.49 7.25

Delly w/Iron One-A-Day® with Iron 89¢ 3.75

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Chewable Vitamins Chocks® 1.49 6.25

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Oyster Cal 500 Oscal 500® 60 for 4.25

Calcium 600 Caltrate 600® 60 for 3.85

A-Z Tabs Centrum® 130 for 3.69

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LIGHT™ TD OTHERS AT DOUBLE OUR PRICE 9.95 24  
CHOCOLATE, VANILLA AND STRAWBERRY oz

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ALOE NEW—each tablet the  
VERA equivalent of one teaspoonful  
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150 for 5.00

Super Potency 500 MCG  
VITAMIN B12 Tablets 100 **1.49** 500 for 6.25

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### NEW BETTER VITAMIN E 400 UNITS

NON-OILY—NO CHOLESTEROL—DELICIOUS TABLETS

Now you have non-oily chewable Vitamin E "Super E-400" with a delicious nutty flavor. Each tablet supplies 400 Units of Vitamin E as d-alpha and d-alpha tocopherol plus natural beta, gamma and delta tocopherols emulsified with apple pectin, lecithin and ground nut flavor.

MONTH'S SUPPLY

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500 for 7.89 of Any Size

1000 for 15.29 to a Family

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500 MG.

**VITAMIN C**

100 for

**87¢**

Rose Hips

500 for 3.99 Limit One

1000 for 7.19 to a Family

Expires 11/30/84

N423

HERBAL LAXATIVE

100 TABLETS

**49¢**

VITAMIN A 25,000 Units

100 for

**89¢**

500 for 4.15

500 for 4.15

500 for 5.49

50

# Should There Be A National Service Act for Youths?

**Rep. Leon E. Panetta, D-Calif.**

Young people represent our most precious natural resource, our investment in America's future. To let their vitality and creativity go to waste is a national shame in a society that cries out for their help. Unfortunately, meaningful opportunities to serve our nation are difficult to find, and the result is a dispiriting belief among many young people that their contributions are neither wanted nor needed.

**YES**

Democracy is not a form of government that operates in a vacuum—it builds on the will and the service of people. If we are to continue to prosper and progress into the 21st century, we must begin to draw on an as-yet-untapped resource: the millions of young Americans who are able—and, I believe, willing—to help.

John Kennedy sent out a call and a challenge, when he told Americans to "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Thousands of young people answered his call, and the establishment of the Peace Corps gave them the opportunity to serve. I believe that the spirit President Kennedy evoked still exists.

A number of suggestions for a national service program have been proposed. I propose the creation of a select commission that would examine the alternatives, including such questions as whether public service should be mandatory and what kinds of service opportunities (including military service) should be offered. I believe this commission will help us define what the goals of a national service program should be and how we can best encourage our young people to serve.

In addition to its potential for helping us achieve some of our common goals, national service also confers an immeasurable benefit on its participants. Public service can provide useful on-the-job training, equipping young people with marketable skills. But beyond that, meaningful service can help young people during the difficult transition from youth to adulthood, from being passive and dependent to making an active contribution to society. Public service can instill a sense of responsibility, pride and self-esteem that will last a lifetime.

We must act to rekindle the spirit and activism that have motivated our youth in the past. A select commission on national service is the first step in that process. □

**Rep. Frank Horton, R-N.Y.****NO**

There should not be a National Service Act for Youths. Mandatory conscription should be instituted only when a serious crisis threatens our nation.

The proposed National Service Act would establish a two-year period of service for young Americans in either civilian or military service.

Although well intended, these national service act proposals are flawed. Mandatory national service would disrupt the lives of young people at a time when critical decisions concerning their future must be made. Further, it would establish a large bureaucracy to manage the program, place the federal government in the business of directing the lives of millions of young people, and disrupt a draft process should a national emergency arise.

Additionally, the National Service Act would depend on "make-work" for its operation. The government would need to find work for millions of young Americans. At a time when we are attempting to cut the cost of government and reduce a burgeoning bureaucracy, this makes little sense.

For those reasons, I oppose and have opposed mandatory conscription for both military and civilian purposes. As for the military, let us not be deceived. With the advanced technology of today's warfare, we must have well-trained, and equipped military forces. Hence, today's volunteer armed forces offer the first line of defense for our nation, bolstered by ready National Guard and reserve units.

Proponents argue that such a policy instills patriotism in young Americans. We needn't enact a costly program to engender a national pride that already exists; we need only to look at the record. Throughout our history, American youth has been summoned to defend our nation as different crises confronted us. And, in every instance, American youth has promptly and proudly responded. I know from firsthand experience. I was called to duty in WWII. I fought with other Americans in both Africa and Italy.

Our nation's youth constitutes the major resource upon which our future depends. Let us not, without sound justification, bind them to mandatory service—in either military or civilian endeavors. Instead, let them steer their own course, as is consistent with our heritage.

We can take pride in the record of American youth. They will respond if their service is needed. They always have. □

# Why are we giving away these nationally advertised **SWIFT-660/F Autocast Spinning Reels for only \$4?**

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Compatible with virtually every plug or lure, the new high-speed gear ratio gives you fast "pop"-action, yet is powerful enough to reel in fish without "pumping".

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Each reel is covered by a full one-year money-back guarantee and will be replaced by the company, free of charge, if it ever fails to function. There is a limit of two (2) reels per address at this price, but requests which are mailed early enough (before Jan. 25) may request up to five.

To obtain your SWIFT-660/F Autocast Spinning Reel, mail this original Anniversary Ad together with your name and address and \$4 for each reel. Add only \$2 shipping and handling no matter how many reels you are requesting. (New York residents add sales tax.) Allow up to 6-8 weeks for shipment. Mail to: **Abernathy & Closther, \$4 Spinning Reel Offer, Dept. 570-18, Box 1736, Hicksville, New York 11802.** (A25160)

**FREE BONUS:** We will also wind 250 feet of our special 6-lb-test monofilament line onto your reel, free of charge, if your request is mailed before Jan. 25

# Aiding Nicaragua's Freedom Fighters: Moral or Immoral?

By Keith Kreul  
Past National Commander

I am firmly convinced that our friends in Central America can fight off the communist aggression if we give them the tools to do the job. But, an equally important requirement is that we remain loyal to our friends. Right now, powerful elements in Congress are attempting to force the U.S. government to abandon the Nicaraguan freedom fighters after giving them support for two years. To do so would cut their lifeline just as their struggle for democracy is beginning to show results.

In an unprecedented move in July 1979, the Organization of American States recognized the Sandinistas as the legitimate government of Nicaragua. Thus ended a popular revolution in which virtually all Nicaraguans rose up and overthrew the Somoza dictatorship. In exchange for OAS recognition, the Sandinistas made a bargain. They promised they would establish a democratic government, respect human rights and promote a mixed economy.

During the succeeding five years, the Sandinistas grossly reneged. They are creating a totalitarian regime, suppressing all meaningful opposition, persecuting the Catholic church, centralizing the economy, engaging in a massive military buildup by Central American standards, exporting revolution to their neighbors, and providing a potential base for Soviet and Cuban imperialism.



PNC Keith Kreul got a first-hand look at Central America during a March tour of Mexico, Panama and El Salvador.

American media speak of the freedom fighters as "Contras." That term is a clear example of communist disinformation. "Contra"—a term originated by the Sandinistas—means "counter-revolutionary," that is, someone dedicated to overthrowing the Nicaraguan revolution and reinstating a right-wing dictatorship. Actually, the freedom fighters seek to continue the Nicaraguan revolution as a *democratic* revolution. But first, the freedom fighters want to redirect the *totalitarian* revolution currently engulfing Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan freedom fighters have played, and can continue to play, a vital role in stimulating the Sandinistas to mend their ways.

Despite the fact that Congress has cut off aid for the freedom fighters, supporters of the freedom fighters will continue to seek funding for this vital effort. Four principal arguments have been made against continuing U.S. aid. Rebuttals to those arguments are as follows:

- **Argument:** "The freedom fighters are 'Somozistas' seeking to reimpose a Somoza-like dictatorship in Nicaragua." **Answer:** The principal freedom fighter leaders were opponents of Somoza. They seek a democratic Nicaragua. Certainly, at lower levels there undoubtedly are some former members of the national guard just as there are in the regular Sandinista army.

- **Argument:** "Freedom fighter operations merely serve to unite the Nicaraguan people in support of the Sandinista government." **Answer:** Support for the Sandinistas is waning, as reported recently by many journalists.

- **Argument:** "Aiding the freedom fighters is immoral and illegal." **Answer:** True immorality would be evidenced by failing to support Nicaraguan patriots, who at great personal sacrifice and danger, are willing to

fight against tyranny. Professor John Norton Moore, a noted international lawyer, has presented a tightly reasoned argument demonstrating that aid to the freedom fighters is legal under international law as an exercise of the right of self defense under the United Nations Charter, Rio Treaty and OAS Charter.

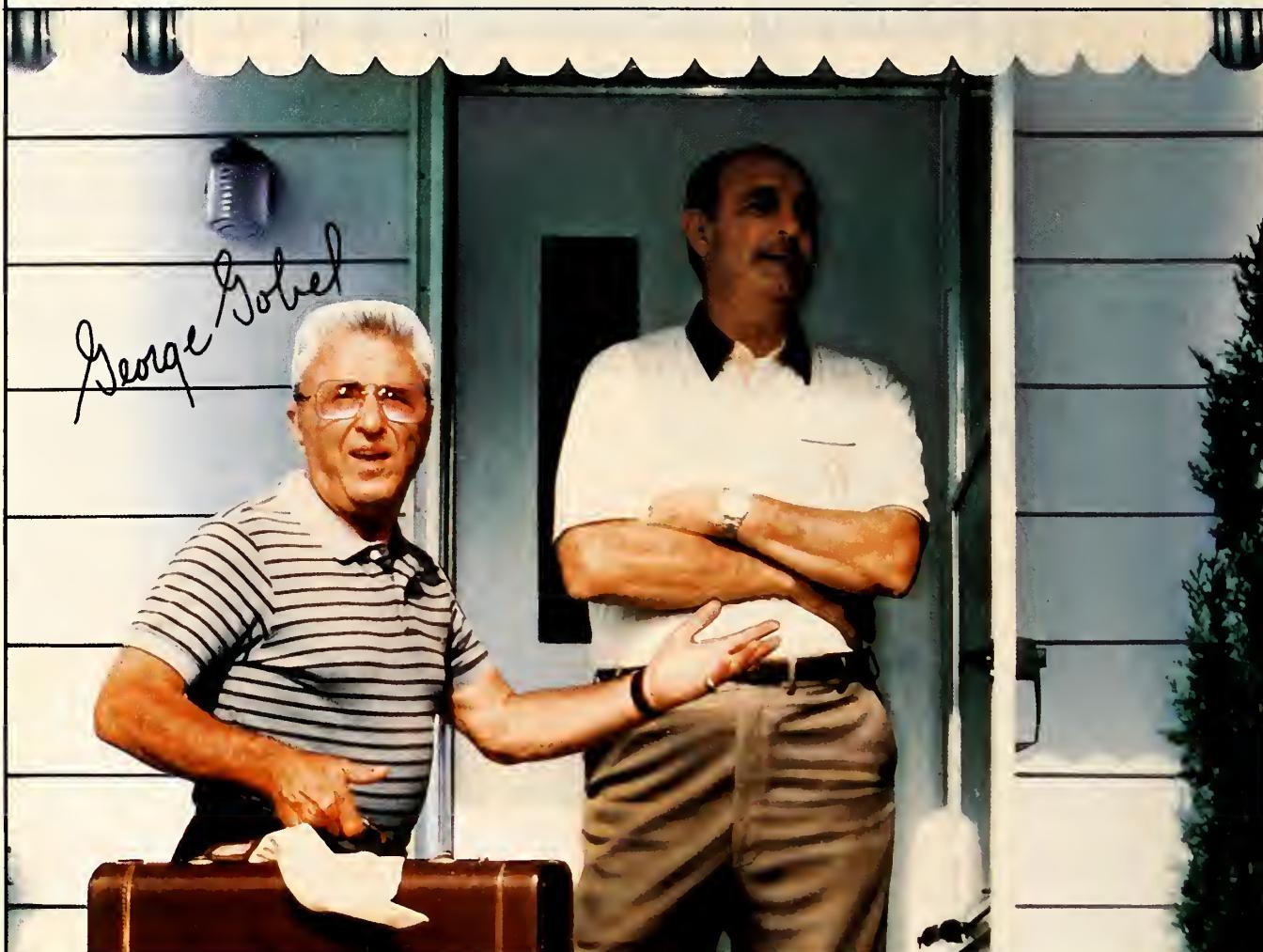
- **Argument:** "Supporting the freedom fighters gives the U.S. a bad image in Latin America." **Answer:** Public opinion polls in Central America show clear understanding that Nicaragua is the disruptive element in the region.

If Congress terminates aid, the U.S. will be deserting a deserving group of Nicaraguan patriots who are willing to risk their lives and fortunes to help achieve a democratic Nicaragua. Ending the freedom fighters' activities will enable the Sandinistas to consolidate and intensify their totalitarian control of Nicaragua, increase support for communist revolutions throughout Central America and demonstrate that the U.S. is an unreliable partner.

U.S. foreign policy has achieved only mixed results during recent years. On the plus side, NATO stood firm against Soviet pressure by deploying new missiles to counter the Soviet SS-20 missile threat. The rescue mission in Grenada gladdened the hearts of the vast majority of Americans. But the U.S. failed to make a decisive response to the Soviets' destruction of KAL Flight 007. Even worse, we "cut and ran" from Lebanon, undermining our influence for peace in the Middle East.

This issue of supporting the Nicaraguan freedom fighters poses another test of our determination. To be truly moral, we must live up to our word, stand-up to totalitarianism, and make sure we do not repeat earlier immoral desertions such as was experienced by our allies in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Angola, Iran and Lebanon. □

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SPECIAL REPORT

# OUR ARMED FORCES

# DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT MIX?

---

**W**E LIVE in a world of violent peace. In over 40 global hot spots, the flames of war alternately smolder and rage.

The United States may never be drawn into one of these mini-wars, yet to be unprepared for such an eventuality is folly. But for which type of warfare do we prepare? Guerrilla? Terrorist? Conventional? Nuclear? Limited? Global? Or all of these?

And if war comes, are U.S. forces prepared to fight one or more at length? Simultaneously? Can we wage a conventional war in the Middle East, a guerrilla war in Central America, a counter-terrorist action wherever it strikes—and simultaneously maintain an effective deterrence against nuclear attack?

Do we have the proper mix of weapons, strategies and forces? In this special report, **THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE** examines the state of our military with a special emphasis on how the various components mesh into one cohesive fighting force.

On the following pages you'll read the expert views of the armed forces' chiefs as they analyze the readiness of their respective services and recommend actions needed to achieve and maintain the strategic balance of power. You'll also read an assessment written by retired Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, father of the nuclear Navy and a frequent critic of the defense establishment, yet a staunch defender of a strong military.

These five reports provide an assessment of the state of our military and its capability to cope with a world of violent peace.



# TODAY'S COMBAT SOLDIERS: TRAINED TO FIGHT AND WIN

**T**here is widespread debate about whether or not U.S. military forces are properly structured to meet contemporary and future global challenges. The elements of military strategy—land, sea and air power—are under scrutiny. The Army is, of course, most concerned about land power, traditionally the decisive arm of military power. However, the key is balance. Land, sea and air power—combined with our allies—must work together to protect national interests.

In an age of strategic nuclear parity, land power is taking on increased importance. Conventional ground forces play an important role across the entire spectrum of conflict. They provide both a deterrent and a warfighting capability. Land power's utility stems from its capability to exercise direct, continuing, and decisive control over land, resources and people. Only land power is—at once—visible, usable, flexible and credible.

Land power contributes importantly to deterrence of mid-to-high intensity conflict. It raises the nuclear threshold and demonstrates American willingness to honor its commitments. A strong conventional deterrent must be maintained in Europe, and Southwest and Northeast Asia. Furthermore, military support and assistance can enhance stability and improve prospects for deterring conflict in troubled areas of the world.

Should deterrence fail, land power provides a war-fighting capability that has utility in low-intensity as well as mid-to-high-intensity conflicts. Given the Soviet ability to project power worldwide and the increase in terrorism and insurgency in the Third

World, low-intensity conflict is the most likely challenge in the future.

The Army, the mainstay of American land power, must organize, train and equip its forces first to deter, and second, to fight and win if deterrence fails. To accomplish these tasks, we are shaping today's land power to meet tomorrow's challenges. We are developing forces that are more flexible, responsive and deployable. In short, we are increasing the strategic flexibility of the Army.

To accomplish this aim, money and manpower must be carefully managed. In addition, we must continue with our heavy force modernization program—

**"IN AN AGE OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR PARITY, GROUND FORCES PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE ACROSS THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF CONFLICT."**

the most extensive in the peacetime history of the U.S. Army.

We must have a proper balance between heavy and light forces. Predominantly heavy forces are necessary to protect our security in Europe and to a lesser degree in Korea and the Persian Gulf. Light forces are required for those contingencies calling for rapid response and strategic deployment.

The key to modernizing our light forces is the new light infantry division. Rapid deployability is key. Although only 10,000 soldiers strong, the light division will have a better "tooth-to-tail" combat ratio than other divisions. It will deploy overseas in one-third the time needed by current



**Gen. John A. Wickham Jr.**  
**Chief of Staff**  
**U.S. Army**

divisions. This capability gives us strategic flexibility. The light division is configured primarily for low-intensity conflicts; however, it can be used also in mid-to-high-intensity conflicts by augmenting its combat power and sustainability with specially tailored corps units.

We also are upgrading the quality of our reserve components. National Guard and reserve units have become a top priority. In fiscal year '84, over \$900 million of new equipment was issued to the Guard and reserve, and this year we plan to issue over \$1.4 billion. Today, 46 percent of our combat support and 70 percent of our combat service support come from the reserve components.

"Jointness" is a key to success. Earlier this year, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Gabriel and I signed an Army-Air Force memorandum of agreement that will better coordinate budget priorities, eliminate duplicate functions and promote more efficient operations in wartime. A similar initiative was signed this summer by the chief logisticians of the Army and the Navy.

The Army is creating a force that is more strategically flexible—ready and better suited to meet tomorrow's challenges. Shaping America's land power now is necessary to assure peace with freedom for the future of America. □



## FORCE STRENGTH

	World War I	World War II	Korea	Vietnam	Today
FORCE STRENGTH	4,000,000	8,266,373	1,107,606	1,319,735	787,147

# SPIRIT, QUALITY OF PEOPLE FORGE A 'STAY-TOUGH' NAVY

I was aboard the USS *Independence* a few months ago to award the Navy Unit Commendation Medal to the crew. They had just completed an extraordinary cruise, and their performance included everything from difficult combat air strikes in the tropics of Grenada to operations in 40-degree-below weather off Norway.

The day I flew out to give this award I was greeted by something you might not expect to see—even after completing a 50,000-mile odyssey, a cruise with 158 out of 176 days spent continuously at sea—the crew was lined up in traditional blue bellbottoms and white hats, ready to go another mile, and cheering as loudly as they could. The sight made me proud to be an American.

It said a great deal about the American spirit and quality of our Navy. Today we have the finest naval forces this nation has ever fielded—the right kind of Navy to cope with worldwide problems. Our naval forces are the most ready forces we have had in quite a few years.

Our present commander-in-chief has used naval forces as no other has during a time which I call "violent peace." Our tempo of operations today is greater than at the height of the Vietnam conflict, with eight of 13 battle groups, containing 100,000 sailors and Marines, moving around the globe nearly all the time.

Although about 85 percent of all international crises since WWII called for naval and Marine forces to be moved worldwide, employment of naval forces is becoming an increasingly key element in crisis control. The Navy, of course, does not plan to go it alone. Indeed, the mutual support of

our sister services and our allies in a coalition defense is the essence of our maritime strategy. This is vital to the security of this "island nation."

These are difficult times. Today there are more than four million people caught up in more than 40 wars, rebellions or internal uprisings. During this time of "violent peace," it is especially important for our Navy-Marine Corps team to continue to demonstrate that our deterrent strength is intact. We must always send a positive signal, showing we are ready to move in defense of national interests. Today your Navy is doing this and more.

Our continuing capability to meet

**"OUR READINESS IS VITAL: FOUR MILLION PEOPLE ARE CAUGHT UP IN 40 WARS AND REBELLIONS IN THIS TIME OF 'VIOLENT PEACE.'"**

our global responsibilities depends on our ability to build and man a 600-ship Navy. The phrase "600-ship Navy" is not a hollow slogan representing a number pulled out of the air. It's the force level we need to meet world commitments and support our nation's goal of peace through strength. We are in sight of that 600-ship goal. With about 525 ships in our inventory by the end of this fiscal year and more than 80 on contract, we will attain our 600-ship goal by decade's end.

Our 600-ship Navy will be a well-balanced Navy of 15 aircraft carriers; increased amphibious lift; modern battleships, Aegis cruisers and



**Adm. James D. Watkins  
Chief of Naval Operations  
U.S. Navy**

guided-missile destroyers; 100 nuclear-powered attack submarines; and a strengthened leg of the strategic triad in the Trident submarine and the D-5 missile. This constitutes the right mix of forces for a Navy capable of supporting this nation's global security commitments. And I foresee no revolutionary changes on the horizon for our Navy, rather a constant evolution of naval technology, strategy and capability to meet a changing maritime and world environment.

Today we have this dichotomy: Our nation is trying to come to grips with a very dangerous and disturbing world situation on the one hand and trying to get our Navy and sister services in the best state of readiness since the end of WWII on the other.

I know when really put to the test this nation will always come together. But because of today's awesome alternatives to peace, I would hope that we could come together *before* events turn to crises. Then we will have achieved the essence of our national strategy of deterrence and perhaps avoid the crises which can otherwise be assured.

You have my word that our Navy is ready to carry its fair share of this responsibility of national defense. We are doing this with spirited, ready and capable naval forces. We are building the right Navy today to ensure American sea power tomorrow. □



## FORCE STRENGTH

	World War I	World War II	Korea	Vietnam	Today
FORCE STRENGTH	613,390	3,410,364	794,440	784,300	567,355



# MARINE ASSAULT TROOPS GIVE MORE 'PUNCH PER POUND'

**M**y assessment of the present and future status of the Marine Corps as well as our ability to carry out our responsibilities as the nation's "force-in-readiness" necessarily focuses on those two time-honored traditions that have always been, and continue to be, the watchwords of the United States Marine Corps: strength and readiness.

As those who follow the Legion are well aware, the principles of strength and readiness are hardly new to the Marine Corps. However, the current realities of sophisticated battlefield technologies and the challenges to America's vital interests require that we continually reassess our capabilities.

Recognizing this need for continuous improvement, the Corps is currently making changes. Today, the Corps has, or is obtaining, the necessary mix of personnel, weapons, and equipment required to meet our challenges. And we are as capable and ready as we have ever been.

For example, the Corps, along with the Navy, is currently developing new concepts that will significantly increase its mobility and flexibility. One such concept centers around the Maritime Pre-positioning Ships program. That program will permit Marines to be airlifted to a contingency area and linked up with their supplies and equipment which will have been previously positioned aboard the Maritime Pre-positioning Ships. MPS, then, complements forcible entry from the sea by combining the bulk transport capability of sealift with the speed of airlift.

The modernization of Marine aviation further illustrates innovations to enhance our strength and readiness.

Marine Corps aviation force improvements began with the delivery of the first AV-8Bs, the Harriers, to our Fleet Marine Forces. The tactical responsiveness of the Harrier results from the aircraft's unique ability to operate from grass fields, roads, and ships as well as prepared airstrips. Looking ahead, the modernization of our medium lift helicopter force rests with the Joint Services Advanced Vertical Lift Aircraft (JVX) or tilt rotor. JVX can penetrate deep into enemy areas at 250 knots. It's a tremendous advance in both our mobility and flexibility.

Improvements in mobility and flex-

**"WE PROVIDE THE NATION  
WITH A HARD-HITTING CORPS  
LIGHT ENOUGH TO DEPLOY  
RAPIDLY WORLDWIDE."**

ibility extend beyond our aviation community. For example, the activation of Navy air-cushioned landing craft squadrons will improve our amphibious assault capability and increase our ability to conduct surprise assaults from beyond the horizon.

We also recently adjusted the structure of Marine ground units resulting in forces that will have significantly more "punch per pound." As a result, although somewhat smaller, Marine infantry battalions will have more firepower and be able to generate far greater shock action because of several new weapons systems. Artillery units have been strengthened by adding more artillery pieces, by increasing the caliber of the weapons, and by



**Gen. Paul X. Kelley  
Commandant  
U.S. Marine Corps**

implementing programs to improve our anti-armor capability.

To support these innovations and improvements, we have made a conscious decision about the size of the Corps. Within a two million-plus armed force, a 200,000-man Marine Corps is, in my opinion, the right size. If we get much larger, we start to compete with the other services for scarce resources. We exist to complement, not to compete, and to provide the nation with a hard-hitting Marine Corps that is light enough to deploy rapidly to any part of the world.

The individual Marine continues to be the linchpin of our strength and readiness. We shall, therefore, continue to seek and to train America's finest young men and women to fill our ranks. Furthermore, as the nation's "force-in-readiness," the Marine Corps' Total Force concept is an established reality. That means we shall continue to rely heavily on a fully trained and capable reserve.

The effective application of seapower is, in the final analysis, accomplished by dedicated Marines and sailors. The most important observation I wish to leave with you is that the men and women who are the lifeblood of the Navy/Marine Corps team have determination and spirit. It is they who are keeping us strong and ready. □



## FORCE STRENGTH

	World War I	World War II	Korea	Vietnam	Today
FORCE STRENGTH	75,101	485,053	261,343	314,917	195,897

# HIGH-TECH AVIATION ROLE KEEPS AIR FORCE ON ALERT

**T**HE greatest threat to the United States and its allies is posed by an aggressive, expansionist Soviet Union.

The Soviets continue a steady, determined arms buildup that exceeds their legitimate defense needs by a wide margin. They provide their proxies and client states with extensive military assistance and expertise to support insurgency, terrorism and domestic unrest. Against this backdrop we have sought to modernize and improve our armed forces to maintain a stable military balance.

Today, the United States has the world's finest air force. It has well-led, highly trained, patriotic professionals equipped with the best that technology can produce. The commitments these military professionals face are global and span the full spectrum of conflict. Our nuclear and conventional forces, whether forward-based or located in the continental United States, must maintain deterrence or resolve conflicts in our national interest should deterrence fail.

During the decade of the 1970s, our defense efforts failed to keep pace with the relentless Soviet force buildup. Now, thanks to strong support from the American people, we are beginning to correct serious deficiencies.

Programs to modernize strategic offensive and defensive forces, now under way, will restore and maintain the strategic balance of power. A cornerstone of strategic modernization is the long-overdue upgrading of our intercontinental ballistic missile force.

We are also modernizing the air-breathing leg of our strategic triad by continuing to deploy air-launched cruise missiles on our B-52 bombers,

producing new B-1B bombers and advanced cruise missiles and conducting an aggressive research and development program for an advanced technology bomber.

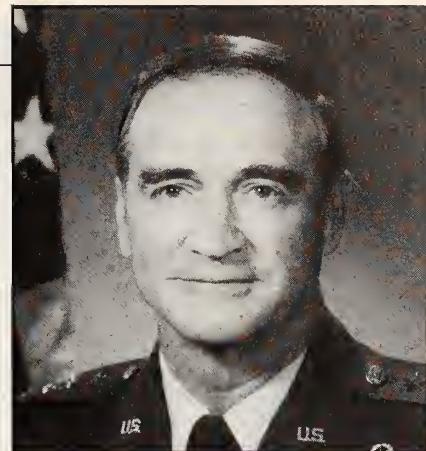
Of course, our forces must have adequate spare parts, fuel and munitions if they are to be effective. During the last three years we have doubled the funding for our readiness and sustainability programs. As a result, our fighter pilots can now fly 20 percent more, and we can generate over 60 percent more combat sorties than we could three years ago. We are not only increasing our funding for spare parts, but also pursuing acquisition reform and improvements that produced

**"THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO EXCEED THEIR DEFENSE NEEDS. WE MUST MODERNIZE TO MAINTAIN A STABLE MILITARY BALANCE."**

significant spare parts savings of \$234 million last year.

Our current programs will go far toward insuring that we have the proper mix of forces to meet America's defense needs. However, over the next decade I see both challenges and opportunities for the Air Force as well as important changes that will affect the way we accomplish our mission.

We will have to develop operations' concepts that take full advantage of longer-range smart stand-off weapons, tactical intelligence, precision location strike systems, joint surveillance and target attack radar systems and other advanced concepts now in research.



**Gen. Charles A. Gabriel  
Chief of Staff  
U.S. Air Force**

We service chiefs have committed ourselves to work more closely together in the future. Gen. John Wickham, Army chief of staff, and I have signed an agreement identifying 31 initiatives that will improve our joint war-fighting capability. I have also agreed with Adm. Jim Watkins, Chief of Naval Operations, to investigate ways to enhance Air Force support of maritime operations. We must continue to develop these and identify additional areas of integration.

Finally, space will become increasingly important as a force multiplier in support of military operations. This increasing dependence on space systems—and the growing Soviet threat to those systems—makes imperative the formation of a unified space command. We should employ our space forces in the same manner as we do our land, sea and air forces—through the unified and specified command structure. I believe we must establish a unified space command to exercise control of U.S. military space systems and to conduct the necessary planning for both peacetime and wartime uses of space.

The challenges ahead will be great, but we can meet them by insuring that adequate resources are committed to our national defense. I am confident the American people understand this and will support our efforts. □



## FORCE STRENGTH

	World War I	World War II	Korea	Vietnam	Today
FORCE STRENGTH	N/A	2,282,259	959,946	787,205	598,859

# DEFENSE AT LESS COST

Our defense establishment combines a layered bureaucracy with lack of personal accountability. The result: an organizational nightmare that is ineffective, inefficient and wasteful.

This expert urges radical changes.

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By **Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, USN (Ret.)**

**Editor's Note:** Governmental inefficiency, especially in defense matters, has long been of concern to many Americans. What can be done to improve the effectiveness of the defense establishment? We asked Adm. Hyman G. Rickover for his answer, based on an unprecedented 64 years of active naval service.

What follows is his surprising assessment of the root of governmental inefficiency and a solution that is practical and ingeniously simple.

**M**any in our country today appear to believe that our military is an institution apart from American society, an institution that could readily be dispensed with, like a national symphony or opera—if it were felt to be unnecessary or wasteful, or required too much effort.

There is also a tendency to project this view to the Soviets . . . that they will refrain from employing their military strength. But one need only read the history of the Punic wars, to see



**DEFENSE CRITIC**—Frequently called upon to testify before Congress on defense issues, Adm. Rickover believes the U.S. can strengthen its defense posture by better managing the defense establishment.

what can happen to second-rate military nations in the realm of power politics. The Carthaginians, not wishing to be bothered with the burden of running a first-class army, let that army decay. Shortly thereafter, they became the recipients of a series of ultimata from the Romans. They gave in to these demands, but in the end they could yield no further and therefore had to fight.

The results are well known. Rome solved all the problems of the Carthaginian inner city, its ecology, and its starving population. But not in the way the Carthaginians would have liked. The people were killed or carried off as slaves, the city razed, and the fields sown with salt.

Peace requires strength, and for this we rely on our Defense Department. I have always been outspoken in my criticism of the Department, not out of disloyalty but to instigate improvements. The people who worked for me never hesitated to tell me when they thought I was heading in the wrong direction. I valued their criticism as the finest form of loyalty. It is in this sense that I offer suggestions to Defense officials.

There are few subjects in modern times that have been researched more extensively and by more people than the management of the Defense Department. There has been study upon study, report after report.

The conclusions of these studies to date have all been the same: We need organizational changes; we need more good people; we need better management procedures. The result—more organizations, more people and considerably more paperwork.

And still the Department is not well



**USS RICKOVER**—As the "father of the nuclear Navy," Rickover was honored when the fast-attack nuclear-powered submarine USS Rickover was commissioned.

organized to accomplish its work efficiently or effectively. Excessive organizational layering, overstaffing, transient management, short tours of duty, preoccupation with management systems, cumbersome and lengthy budget review processes and other factors . . . combine to result in inefficiency and waste.

A major problem in the Defense Department is that those at the top are too far removed from those who know the facts and do the work. The Secretary has many problems. He relies on the recommendations of his staff members, who, in turn, tend to seek advice from their own personal staffs, consultants and contractors, rather than the Department's professionals. And that is the way it operates. Low-level officials in the Office of the Secretary of Defense often make

decisions without even consulting those responsible for the work.

As these phenomena cascade down the organizational chart, the "cheekers" eventually outnumber the "doers." The extra layers of manage-

ment delay work, waste time and dilute responsibility.

century, the Holy Roman Emperor Frederic III managed to transport his entire administration, consisting of a chancellor and a secretary, through the Reich in an ox-driven cart. Today all the oxen in the United States

**"THERE** has been study upon study. The conclusions have all been the same: We need organizational changes; we need more good people; we need better management procedures. The result—more organizations, more people, more paperwork."

ment delay work, waste time and dilute responsibility.

When established in 1946, the Office of the Secretary of Defense was to have three special assistants and a "small" executive office. Today, the number approaches 2,000. In the 15th

would not be capable of transporting the officials of the Pentagon.

Large staffs slow decision-making and result in non-knowledgeable and non-responsible officials making many of the decisions.

*Continued on page 46*

# AFGHANISTAN:

## “IT’S SO EASY TO DIE HERE”

Visiting death and destruction upon the Afghans by regular means of war is not enough for the Soviet Union. More insidious methods are also used, such as chemical-biological warfare and booby-trapped toys.

By Ludmilla Thorne

**O**N DEC. 27, 1979, I was watching the evening news at the home of a friend in Hawaii, when an Afghanistan city, Kabul, flashed on the screen, followed by exotic looking swarthy faces and Slavic ones, wearing helmets.

Those wearing helmets were riding tanks.

“Welcome to Soviet Afghanistan,” my friend said. Both of us came from Russian families—I was born in the Soviet Union. As we watched the arrival of more and more Soviet troops, we were filled with both anger and shame.

Afghanistan has been called “the forgotten war,” although about 700,000 Afghans have been killed and 4,000,000 have been forced to flee to Pakistan and Iran. At least 30,000 people are in prison and many have been hideously tortured during the five-year war.

“You are making us die too cheaply,” one Afghan told me. “Why doesn’t your country help us?” Another resistance leader said, “The West wants the Soviet Union to bleed very slowly in Afghanistan,” but we

are bleeding much more. We don’t want your American soldiers; just give us the right weapons.

According to the June 11, 1984, issue of *Time* magazine the CIA spends about \$75 million a year supplying the Afghan rebels (a term the Afghan resistance force does not like) with weapons, radio equipment and medicine. On July 27, the House Appropriations Committee approved \$50 million in covert aid for the Afghan rebels.

Although the mujahedeen (“Holy Warriors,” as the Afghan rebels prefer to be called) have been able to knock down perhaps two dozen Soviet MIGs and about 300 helicopters with small-arms and other captured Soviet weapons, what they need most to make this war expensive for the Soviets are hand-held anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles.

There are plenty of targets. According to the Summer 1984 issue of *Parameters*, the Journal of the U.S. Army War College, 105,000 to 120,000 Soviet troops are in Afghanistan, composing seven motorized rifle divisions, five air assault brigades of about 2,000 men each and an undisclosed number of “airborne/ranger” units.

There have also been reports that Cuban, Vietnamese, and East European soldiers have been sent to Afghanistan. When I visited the museum in Peshawar, I saw a Cuban uniform

on exhibit, along with much other captured war paraphernalia.

The communist government’s Afghan troops, under Moscow’s puppet leader Babrak Karmal, have dwindled from 80,000 to 30,000. The defection rate among them to the mujahedeen is so high that even 15-year-old boys are now snatched off the street and drafted into the Afghan army. Conscription has been extended from three to four years, resulting in virtual mutiny. The conclusion reached by most observers, and supported by numerous Soviet POWs that I talked to, is that the Afghan army is practically useless.

Mujahedeen troop strength is between 85,000 and 100,000.

### THE AFGHANS

The Soviet Union and the Babrak Karmal regime control practically all major cities in Afghanistan; however, about 85 percent of the countryside is in the hands of the mujahedeen. The favorite mode of attack used by the Soviets has been to bomb mujahedeen strongholds or Afghan villages suspected of giving aid to the resistance, followed with light tanks and infantry for ground sweeps. The Soviets also have used high-altitude saturation bombings and have burned crops and killed livestock in an effort to force the village population—the mujahedeen’s chief base of support—to flee to the

*Ludmilla Thorne, director of the Freedom House’s Center for Appeals for Freedom, N.Y., is a Russian-born author whose work has appeared in numerous national publications.*

big cities or to Pakistan or Iran. Many Western analysts believe the emptying of the countryside is the most serious threat to the resistance.

Eighty per cent of Herat, once Afghanistan's third largest city, reportedly has been destroyed. In June of this year more than 1,000 civilians were killed in that city. Famine stalks the land.

The mujahedeen have been using hit-and-run tactics against the Soviets, ambushing their convoys, and retreating into mountains or caves. While the Soviets' main advantage lies in their technology, the insurgents' strength is their mobility and concealment.

Earlier this year the Soviet Embassy in Kabul was rocketed two times and in the last week of June a mortar barrage hit the embassy compound killing at least one Soviet official. There was also a spate of assassinations; a top Afghan secret service officer was killed. Electric blackouts have taken place, and Soviet MiG's at the Bagram airbase have been blown up.

For the Soviet Union, visiting death and destruction by regular means of war is not enough. More insidious methods are used, such as chemical-biological warfare and booby-trapped toys.

One of the most revealing reports of Soviet modus operandi was prepared by a team of U.N. experts, who interviewed Afghan refugees in Peshawar and Quetta in February 1982. Many victims described their own symptoms while others spoke of friends who died within 24 hours of their contact with chemical weapons. They said victims' bodies decomposed and limbs fell off when touched.

Antipersonnel mines shaped like ballpoint pens, watches, books, or small red trucks and other toys are being dropped from Soviet helicopters. In the Red Cross hospital in Peshawar last year, I met a boy whose arms were blown off at the elbows. He said he thought he was picking up a little green bird but it turned out to be a so-called "butterfly bomb." It floats down from a Soviet helicopter and looks very graceful, like a butterfly.

## THE SOVIETS

During WWII the Soviet soldier was fighting an invader. In Afghanistan, he is the invader. He must either fight and die for a cause in which he does not believe or kill innocent people.

In November 1981 I translated for CBS television portions of interviews with two former Soviet soldiers. One of the young men, Yury Povarnitsyn, who was then 19, said the war in Afghanistan had "turned the Russian soldier into a barbarian . . . he is be-



NFA

coming more and more like an animal here." The other, a Moslem Turkmen, joined the ranks of the mujahedeen.

Neither the Soviet Union nor the Afghanistan government want the world to know what is happening to their miserable domain, thus, Western journalists are rarely allowed into Afghanistan. Pakistan is also not happy about Western journalists slipping into Afghanistan through its borders, in fear of Soviet reprisals.

While interviewing for ABC's "20/20", I met seven former Soviet soldiers, five privates, two sergeants, who defected to the mujahedeen. During one discussion before the filming, I asked why Soviet soldiers were sur-

**FREEDOM FIGHTERS**—Although their principal weapons are captured rifles, the mujahedeen have knocked down two dozen Soviet MiGs and 300 helicopters.

rendering to the Afghan guerillas.

One said, "They're not surrendering. They are going over because of their convictions." Another said: "One or two months after I arrived in Afghanistan I realized that I was deceived." A third, like most Soviet soldiers sent to Afghanistan, was told that he would be fighting Pakistani, Iranian, American or Chinese mer-

*Continued on page 42*

# SOS Surplus On Sale BUT...

*Looking for surplus jeeps? How about used pool tables, typewriters, planes, boats? They're all available at government surplus sales . . . but watch the fine print!*

By George & Sharon Korzeniowski



**Y**ou've seen the ads, dozens of times: "Government Surplus Jeeps \$49! Get the facts today! Send \$2 to P.O. Box 000 . . ." Everybody's brother-in-law swears he knew a guy who bought an Army surplus jeep—still in its original crate, with spare parts wrapped in foil and packed in Cosmoline—for maybe \$50.

Sure, he did. If even half of such stories were true, every other vehicle on the road would be olive drab and four-wheel drive.

"The truth is that such vehicles are not available," said William M. Collins of the Defense Property Disposal Service, Battle Creek, Mich., the U.S. agency that handles sales of surplus military goods. "When jeeps are sold, they rarely are drivable—and they never were crated!"

What's more, Collins said, available military jeeps (the M-151, which replaced the M-38 jeep familiar to millions of WWII GIs) are sold as scrap only, which means that they have to be cut into four big pieces before you can take them home. That's because, while the M-151 is a ruggedly dependable, easily cared-for off-road vehicle,

it also is so top-heavy and will roll over so easily on a smooth road that it was involved in over 5,000 highway accidents between 1967 and 1970. In 1971, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration accordingly urged that it not be sold as a usable civilian vehicle.

Older M-38 jeeps, which are stable and drivable, are extremely rare today, Collins said. Most DPDS offices haven't seen one in years, and even then they were at least 15 years old. Few were usable, and several, sold for parts, went for close to \$1,000 each, a far cry from the \$49 promised in the ads.

The reason that few vehicles of any kind make it to DPDS auctions intact is the agency's reutilization program. When a jeep or any other military item is declared surplus, DPDS first checks with the other military services; sometimes an item that the Army no longer needs is exactly what the Marines have been looking for. If no customer can be found in the U.S. military establishment, the item is then offered to our allies, through the U.S. Department of State. If there are no takers there, the offer goes to assorted U.S. non-military agencies: the U.S. Forestry Service, an agency of the Department of the Interior, sometimes can spruce up a surplus jeep and put it back into active service. Next in line are selected non-federal groups, including state, county and local gov-

*George and Sharon Korzeniowski are photojournalists based near Niagara Falls, N.Y., who specialize in "how-to" articles in civil aviation, law enforcement and the legal process.*

ernments, Boy Scout organizations and certain schools.

Only after an item has been rejected by all such additional groups can it be offered at auction to the general public. There are two kinds of auctions: national and local.

National auctions attract high-powered competition worldwide, including professional scrapping firms and companies that specialize in selling surplus items overseas. Items are offered in large quantities: 960 pairs of combat boots, say, or 125 place-settings of tableware. High-priced items such as planes, tugboats and bulldozers usually are sold at national auction, as well as extremely rare items, such as 330 "barter kits" con-

taining gold coins and other trinkets from WWII and Vietnam that were sold this past July.

Local auctions, held intermittently whenever sufficient surplus accumulates at DPDS offices throughout the country, are where you can find individual items, such as a typewriter, a pup tent or a beat-up pickup truck. Items being readied for sale at DPDS's Rome, N.Y., local office recently included a microwave oven, a pair of water skis, a pool table, a hobby horse and an assortment of truck, car and tractor tires, plus mattresses and power lawnmowers.

Prices at local auctions tend to be lower than those at national auctions, but even so can occasionally run into

the thousands of dollars. *But you can get real bargains.* The Rome, N.Y., office recently sold sets of bowling pins at about \$40 each; a new set generally costs about \$300. A mobile home recently was sold for \$450, and a boat and trailer went for \$4,500.

What you *won't* find at either local or national DPDS auctions are usable weapons of any kind (although some accessories such as rifle slings and holsters sometimes are offered); any combat vehicles such as tanks or armored vehicles; any combat aircraft or ships, and any sophisticated electronic gear capable only of use in a military function.

And, no matter what the ads say, you *won't* find any "cheap jeeps," either. □

## Buying Surplus Property: Here's How

**W**ant to buy something at a local or national DPDS auction? First, get a copy of DPDS's booklet, "Classes of Surplus Personal Property Sold by the Department of Defense." It's available at your nearest Defense Property Disposal Office—check your local phone book, or that of a large city near you.

The 32-page booklet lists some 450 classes of items, ranging from the ordinary (like power-driven hand tools, Class 5130) to the exotic (such as specialized guided-missile maintenance, repair and checkout equipment, Class 4935).

DPDS classifies everything it sells into two categories: a "scrap and waste" category, including items such as exposed photographic film, waste-paper and spent batteries, that generally are not suitable for anything but scrap; and a "usable" category that also includes some items that are sold for scrapping only (such as battleships) but primarily consists of used items of virtually every description, from garbage cans and furniture to toys, restaurant equipment, cars and trucks and just about everything else.

Keep in mind that each item is carefully screened several times before you get a chance to bid on it. Some items will need repair; many will be good only for parts. Most, though, will be a great buy, something you'll pay a lot less money for than you'd have to lay out to buy them new. To keep from being disappointed, though, it's wise to inspect the items you're interested in before you bid on them. All sales are on an "as is" basis, and all are final.

To participate in national auctions, contact DPDS at P.O. Box 1370, Battle Creek, Mich. 49016 or tele-

phone (616) 962-6511. You'll be sent information containing the rules for bidding, needed down-payments and regulations for removing the items you purchase from DPDS.

Local auctions usually (but not always) operate on an "open bid," cash-and-carry basis, which means that you come to the auctions prepared to pay cash. You register before the auction and, occasionally, make a small down-payment. You receive a list of the items for sale and a numbered paddle; when you want to bid, you raise the paddle. (Sometimes, "spot bids," where you bid in writing, are required—but these are usually reserved for the larger, national auctions. In any case, it's wise to check before the bidding actually begins).

Also, remember that it is up to you to arrange for delivery of your purchase from the DPDS or its local office. The DPDS crew may help you load

items on a truck, but other than providing you a list of common carriers that serve their area, they cannot help with any delivery arrangements.

To participate in local auctions, contact the appropriate regional headquarters from the following list, tell them you want to take part in local auctions and tell them which states you'd be willing to travel to in order to attend auctions.

If you live in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington or Wyoming, contact DPDR-Ogden, ATTN: DPDR-OMB, 500 W. 12th St., Ogden, Utah 84401. If you live in Alabama, Arkansas, Canal Zone, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee or Texas, contact DPDR-Memphis, ATTN: DPDR-MMB, 2163 Airways Blvd., Memphis, Tenn. 38114. If you live in any of the remaining contiguous states, contact DPDR-Columbus, ATTN: DPDR-CMB, 3990 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. If you live in Hawaii, American Samoa, Australia, Korea, The Philippines or Thailand, contact DPDR-Pacific, ATTN: DPDR-PM, P.O. Box 211, Pearl City, Hawaii 96782. If you live in Europe, contact DPDR-Europe, APO New York, N.Y. 09633.

One final note: all categories of military hardware must be "de-militarized" before they can be sold. That means they must be smashed, bent, broken and cut up—and they're sold as scrap only. So set your sights on what is available, and forget about re-creating Omaha Beach in your backyard. □

### About Those Ads

**G**etting all necessary information about bidding on surplus government property is easy, and it's free. Magazine or TV ads offering information on such subjects only sell you for a price what is available without charge. As for \$49 jeeps, no one can help you get what doesn't exist.

If you feel you've been deceived by one of these ads, contact the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection, Washington, D.C. 20580. Enclose a copy of the ad, or make a note of when it was broadcast and on what station.

# BOB HOPE

## THE GI'S BEST FRIEND

*He's traveled 10 million miles, made over 20 million friends, and spent 42 years in one quest: to bring humor and a touch of home to GIs serving at remote duty stations the world over.*



'I'm happy to be here at the 181st cease-fire in Lebanon,'" he said, bringing a roar of laughter from the 1,200 Marines who were on the battleship *New Jersey* to do what many of their fathers and grandfathers, mothers and grandmothers had done when they were in uniform. They'd come to hear Bob Hope, "The GI's Best Friend."

It was 1983, 42 years after his first radio broadcast for GIs, and at 80, the venerable Hope was still on the job. And on that hot, dry day in the Middle East, just as he'd done in three wars, he didn't let the GIs down. "If this is peace," he continued, "aren't you glad we're not at war?"

But Bob Hope has always been at war, at war against misery, drudgery and loneliness—the natural lot of GIs far away from home—battling to keep their spirits up by bringing to them a bit of humor and a touch of home. No other entertainer nor national leader

has so befriended American fighting men and women. He's traveled over 10 million miles playing to them, from Alaska to the South Pacific and from the Panama Canal to Egypt. And he's made over 20 million personal friends out of the servicemen and women whom he delighted with barrages of one-liners.

Hope has used his quick wit not only to bring out the belly laugh, but also to bring the GI back to reality. Like the time Frances Langford was traveling with him during WWII and started singing "As Time Goes By" in a hospital ward. It wasn't a large and impersonal audience that time. The entertainers and soldiers could touch each other. And they did.

As a GI began to cry, Langford's voice trembled, then halted. Overcome

by her own tears, she left the ward before finishing the song.

After a few seconds, Hope stepped to the aisle Langford had just left. "Fellows," he said, "the folks back home are having a terrible time about eggs. They can't get any powdered eggs at all. They've got to use the old-fashioned kind you have to break open." He had gently nudged them back to reality with a simple joke.

Hope's humor, as John Steinbeck wrote from London in WWII, "was never aimed at people, but at conditions and ideas." That kind of sensitivity is the hallmark of Hope, a man who brought a bit of home to battle-weary GIs. He did it because he saw it as his duty, not just for the GIs, but for their families back home.

Hope's efforts on behalf of America's servicemen and women haven't gone unnoticed. The American Legion was so moved by his service to GIs during WWII that it honored him in 1946 with its highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal.

Just before pinning on the medal, Past Natl. Cdr. John R. Quinn said,

*Fred W. Bryson, a professor at Southern Methodist University, is a long-time friend of Bob Hope.*



**AT THE FRONT**—From WWII USO gatherings (above), to a sand-bagged Marine bunker in Beirut, Hope's presence always meant a welcome touch of home and plenty of laughs.

"In the days of old, only the nobility could afford the luxury of the jester. By that standard more than 12,000,000 GIs of World War II were nobles. For Bob Hope was the personal jester of every man and woman in uniform."

After receiving the award, Hope said, "This is the most thrilling surprise in my life. I mean it. It is the high spot of my life. But, I hope in the future that these medals for distinguished service will be given for peace preservation and encouragement. There is a lot of silly talk about a third war. I don't think they will be giving any medals in that war. There won't even be time to pack. It will be a battle of laboratories, ladies and gentlemen, and if it does happen, I think we will start back with Noah's Ark. I think all of us ought to put forth as much effort as we did in winning this last war to protecting the peace and



saving a lot of American lives."

After WWII, President Truman, who called Hope "The GI's Guy," awarded him a presidential citation for his efforts on behalf of all servicemen.

More recently, during the 66th National Convention in Salt Lake City, The American Legion Auxiliary presented Hope with its 1984 Humanitarian Award. Inscribed on it was: "For the memories from the wives and sweethearts, the mothers and daughters of the men whose burden you eased."

The master of the quick recovery was momentarily lost for words as 1983-84 National Auxiliary President Anna Gear gave him the award. He said, "I've received a lot of plaques, but this one is a real kick. What a wonderful sight to see the wives, sweethearts and mothers of those men I entertained."

After a few seconds, he was back on cue, lightening the moment with a rapid-fire succession of one-liners: "Really, all those USO shows were educational," he dead-panned. "They taught me how to spell Kaopectate."

Hope has not only helped men and women while they were in uniform, but also after they'd left the service.

**MEDAL AND MIRTH**—Hope received the Legion's top award (right) in 1946 from PNC John R. Quinn (1923-24). If GIs couldn't make it to his show (below), Hope took his show to them.



In 1968, he, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour were co-chairmen of the entertainment committee for the Legion's 50th anniversary. All three also served on the Legion's Prestige Advisory Committee for the anniversary, a group co-chaired by former presidents Truman and Eisenhower.

Hope's message to GIs and veterans alike has always been the same: Thanks for the service and keep up the good work. In the September 1946 issue of *THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE*, Hope told GIs about some of the changes they might expect back home and "if you do the kind of job in peacetime that you did in war, it's going to be a world we can all be proud of. And you can be prouder than anybody else, because you helped make it that way."

In a larger sense, Hope may have come to symbolize "hope" itself to America's fighting men. Once, during the Vietnam War, a grimy and tired-looking soldier explained why he looked forward to one of the famous entertainer's shows: "War's easier," said the grunt, "when you got Hope." □

**V**eterans Counseling Centers for Vietnam-era veterans will be increased by 52, according to Harry N. Walters, VA administrator. Walters said plans are already in motion to open the new vet centers and satellites, and the VA has begun recruiting additional people to staff the centers.

Since the outreach program began in 1979, the number of vet centers has grown to 136. Within the past five years, more than 250,000 veterans and 50,000 family members have received counseling for a variety of readjustment problems, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and marital and employment difficulties. Vet centers are seeing an average of 6,300 new veteran clients each month.

Congress initially intended the program to operate for two years until 1981, but because of its success, it was extended until 1988.

**H**ealth Care for Veterans at VA facilities could be seriously jeopardized in at least one of the proposals made by the Grace Commission. Under the proposal, VA and other federal agencies would have to significantly reduce over a five-year period the number of federal employees in grades GS/GM-11 to GS/GM-15. While this proposal is founded on the premise that the federal government has many more mid-level employees than the private sector, the application of this reduction to VA health care would be devastating. This is because VA health care is labor-intensive and much of that labor force is made up of doctors, nurses, technicians and others concentrated in direct health-care delivery areas. The American Legion strongly opposes this proposal's application to VA and is seeking an exemption to protect the health care of veterans from deteriorating because of poorly conceived cost savings.

**C**ollege-Aged Young Men who do not register with Selective Service will be denied federal education aid, according to the U.S. Supreme Court. Commenting on the high court's 6-2 ruling, Past National Commander Keith Kreul said, "The Legion finds nothing wrong in requiring that a young man register with the Selective Service as a prerequisite to eligibility for aid or grants. We believe that no citizen who refuses to serve his country, or acknowledges that he has not complied with a particular law, is entitled to preferential or even routine consideration in the distribution of federal funds."

**T**housands of Servicemen and women may have been unjustly punished on the basis of faulty drug and urine test results, according to recent developments.

In a move to curtail drug use, military services over the past two years forced thousands of accused users from the service while others have been punished by rank reductions and fines. In most cases, urine tests were used as evidence.

It now appears that many of the tests were flawed because of faulty procedures or human error.

So the Army is looking for 60,000 to 70,000 soldiers and former soldiers who might want to appeal actions against them because of possibly faulty tests. The Navy has already contacted the 7,000 people it believes might have been victims of poor testing. The Air Force intends to contact between 500 and 1,000 airmen.

The Army is looking for soldiers who had a positive urine test finding between April 27, 1982 and Nov. 1, 1983. They may call: (703) 664-2850/2744, or (804) 861-1606/4231.

**I**f You've Had Trouble getting your service and medical records from St. Louis, Mo., your problems may soon be eased.

Complaints of lost records and excessive waiting times to get the records once found, are being looked into by The American Legion, VA and Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

To understand the kinds of problems being dealt with, Legion rehabilitation directors and department service officers have been asked to review their cases for two to three examples of such problems and to send them to the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission in Washington, D.C.

**P**ost-Traumatic-Stress Disorder and other readjustment problems among Vietnam-era veterans will be examined in a \$3.6 million VA-funded study.

The study will focus on veterans who now have or have had readjustment problems, as well as those who made the transition to civilian life with little or no difficulty.

Approximately 2,900 persons will be interviewed nationwide, and will include Vietnam veterans, Vietnam-era veterans, women veterans, minority group veterans, incarcerated veterans, veterans living in rural and urban areas, veterans seeking treatment at VA facilities, veterans with physical disabilities and a special control group of non-veterans.

Families of veterans also will be interviewed. The project is expected to take 42 months.

**O**f All Federal Hires last fiscal year, 22 percent were veterans, according to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Federal hires represented some 73,000 veterans hired, said OMB. This brought the percentage of veteran employment in the federal government to 38.6 percent in non-postal agencies and 41.8 percent in the United States Postal Service.

During that time, 6,059 (8 percent) were women; 19,138 (26 percent) were minorities; and 4,204 (6 percent) were 30-percent or more disabled veterans. Of those hired, 79 percent were Vietnam-era veterans.

According to OMB, those increases occurred during a period of overall decline in governmentwide hiring. □

# REPORT FROM SALT LAKE CITY

## The American Legion's 66th National Convention

**A**ll of you in The American Legion have served your country honorably in time of war; but you have also served her nobly in time of peace by making The American Legion one of the most important and effective civic organizations in our country's history. I salute you today, as do all Americans," said President Ronald Reagan, a WWII veteran and bluecap Legionnaire from California's Pacific Palisades Post 238.

Another blucapper, and presidential challenger, Walter F. Mondale, said: "We come from all walks of life. We may not agree on all issues, but we share certain American values. Among them, we believe America must always be strong, and we believe that we must use that strength to make this a safer world."

Reagan and Mondale were among the numerous dignitaries who addressed the 6,000 delegates and alternates assembled for The American Legion's 66th National Convention, Sept. 3 to 5, in Salt Lake City.

The setting couldn't have been more appropriate than the city's Salt Palace, a breezy expanse of compact meeting rooms and cavernous auditoriums nestled in the foothills of the looming Wasatch and Oquirrh Mountains, under a consistently bright blue sky next to the Great Salt Lake.

Salt Lake City is headquarters for the 5.4-million-member Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, whose philosophy—the collective achievement of a common goal through individual energy and industry—is world renowned.

That's why Legionnaires from all 58 departments gathered on the floor of the huge Salt Palace—to forge their collective minds into an orchestration of common purpose and two-fold achievement: to help chart the course



**COMMAND DUO**—Cdr. Kreul introduces President Reagan to Legionnaires before Reagan's appearance as a guest convention speaker.

for The American Legion for 1984-85 and to elect a new national commander and national vice commanders.

Long before the president addressed the delegates, National Commander Keith Kreul met with local

and national reporters from print and electronic media and updated them on the Legion's positions on national and international issues.

"We represent a broad cross-section of society and are the voice of mainstream America," Kreul told the reporters. "We work for America."

Speaking for more than 2.5 million Legionnaires, Kreul articulately fielded more than 50 questions cover-



**SALT PALACE**—More than 6,000 delegates and alternates conducted Legion business on the floor of the huge convention center.

ing the gamut of Legion interests from America's involvement in El Salvador to teenage drug abuse.

Kreul told the media that 591 resolutions covering subjects of concern to all Americans would be presented for action on the convention floor. (Of the 165 resolutions the delegates finally adopted, 142 call for immediate legislative action. A list of 1984-85 resolutions starts on page 34.)

When the gavel fell and the convention officially began, Cdr. Kreul told his fellow Legionnaires and various members of the media that "without question The American Legion is on the move, and Legionnaires throughout the world are living up to the letter and the spirit of the ideals laid down by our founders two-thirds of a century ago."

Kreul pointed out a few of the year's challenges to which the Legion had responded with determination and resourcefulness. The Beirut massacre, the rescue mission in Grenada, the letter-writing campaign that brought thousands of peacekeeper greetings to men and women in uniform at Christmas time, were some he named.

"In each of these global events," he said, "the wisdom, foresight and dedi-

cation of American Legionnaires to the causes of freedom, justice and peace shone through like radiant sunshine."

Likewise, President Reagan, in his 30-minute message, spoke of renewed patriotism and pride in country, and thanked the Legion for setting a national example by fostering and maintaining its many patriotic programs throughout the nation.

The president also said that America's veterans, "besides winning the country's respect, have earned benefits to which they are entitled, including

**CANDIDATE**—Cdr. Kreul is introduced to presidential candidate and former vice president Walter F. Mondale, by PNC Daniel F. Foley, before Mondale's appearance as a guest speaker.



# CONVENTION '84



**AUXILIARY'S FIRST LADY**—Helen Adams Gardner of Florida was elected the 1984-85 national president of The American Legion Auxiliary, in Salt Lake City, at the group's 64th national convention. A registered nurse and hospital administrator, Mrs. Gardner will lead the one-million members of the Auxiliary, whose theme this year is "Invest in America." The Auxiliary's main project is the fight against adult illiteracy, a problem shared by 46 million adults. Mrs. Gardner also wants to improve overall public education and said, "We have an obligation to see that tomorrow's children, our greatest national resource, receive an education that will prepare them for the 21st century."

veterans' preference in government employment." Describing today's military troops as better armed, better trained and better supported than ever before, the president said, "These are the kinds of things that will make sure we never have to cross the nuclear threshold. In the past, we have succeeded best when we have bargained from strength. We are determined to keep America a beacon of hope to the rest of the world, and to return her to her rightful place as a champion of peace and freedom among all nations."

Mondale, a Korean War veteran and member of Minnesota's Sanford Post 192, told Legionnaires of his fervent belief in a strong U.S. military, then sharply criticized Soviet leaders whom he described as cynical and ruthless. Because of their habitual repression of citizens and maintenance of pacts by force, he said, "We know that we must never negotiate with them on the basis of trust."

Legionnaires also heard other nationally known dignitaries, among whom was State Department counselor Edward J. Derwinski, who said that almost anywhere a serious problem crops up around the world, "you'll find the evil hand of the Soviet Union." Derwinski also disagreed with those who believe El Salvador will become a new Vietnam.

"Central America is in our backyard," he said. "It would be the height of irresponsibility to permit the growth of more communist cancer in our hemisphere."

Ambassador Edward L. Rowny, a veteran of three wars and chief U.S. negotiator to the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks, told Legionnaires, "You and I have seen war, and we want to work so it's not fought again."

VA Deputy Administrator Everett Alvarez Jr., who spoke to the VA&R Commission, noted that the VA's \$27.2 billion budget for fiscal year 1985 was \$1 billion more than the 1984 budget. "In the Washington climate, where there is continuing focus on reducing government growth, the VA finds itself as one of the few agencies continuing to grow," he said, emphasizing the importance the government places on veterans programs.

Harry N. Walters, VA administrator, expressed deep concern over how to provide for the medical needs of a rapidly growing population of aging veterans. "In the years just ahead, we'll see an explosion in the number of veterans over the age of 65," he said. "From 3.3 million in 1980, to more than seven million in 1990, to nine million in 2000 and 12 million in 2010."

Walters labeled Agent Orange as an "incredibly complex" issue the VA is eager to resolve. "Meanwhile," he said, "I can assure you that no veteran exposed to Agent Orange will ever be denied medical treatment by the VA."

Speaking on the POW/MIA issue, Commodore James Cossey, director of DoD's Asian and Pacific Region, said: "We write no last chapters. We close

no books. We put away no final memories. An end to America's involvement in Vietnam cannot come before we've achieved the fullest possible accounting of those 2,483 Americans missing in action."

South Carolina Sen. J. Strom Thurmond, who received the Legion's Distinguished Service Medal, said, "There are ominous forces that seek to conquer, control and acquire by force what they cannot gain in peace, and the defense of our nation has never been more important than it is now. We cannot ignore the fact that we no longer hold a military advantage over the Soviet Union. For that reason, funding for defense programs crucial to national security should not be eliminated or reduced."

"For those who doubt the Soviet threat to the U.S." he said, "let me remind them that this is the same country that continues to dominate nine Eastern European nations they have controlled since the end of World War Two; the same country that has never strayed from its self-enunciated goal of destroying democracy; and the same country that has helped lead invasions and take-overs across the globe, such as Angola, Mozambique, and Ethiopia in Africa; Yemen in the Middle East; Vietnam and Afghanistan in Asia; and Cuba and Nicaragua in our own backyard. So to those who say the cost of defending El Salvador is high, I say the risk of standing by

**OLD GLORY**—American flags snapping crisply in the clear mountain air added to the patriotic flavor of Monday's parade.





**IN MEMORIAM**—Sunday's memorial service at the Mormon Tabernacle paid tribute to the nation's fallen veterans.

**DISTINGUISHED**—Sen. J. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C. (ctr.), was awarded the Legion's highest award, the Distinguished Service Medal.

and doing nothing is even higher."

This year's religious service in the Mormon Tabernacle featured the traditional laying of the memorial wreaths and a message by keynote speaker, President Gordon B. Hinckley, Second Counselor in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who told Legionnaires: "Let us remember with reverence and appreciation those who paid a terrible price for our freedom. But while doing so, let us not forget that the battle really is never over."

The four-hour American Legion parade featured 80 entries that entertained thousands of Salt Lakers and Legionnaires alike on Monday.

No convention would be complete, however, without recognizing Legionnaires and others who have distinguished themselves during the year. The battery of awards this year included the following:





**NEW LEADER**—Newly elected National Commander Clarence M. Bacon said he would "keep the Legion's beacon of hope and inspiration bright for America."

• The 1984 Good Guy Award was presented to former football star Merlin Olsen.

• Seagram Post Awards went to Guy Marschner, Post 71 adjutant in Weed, Calif., who won an all-expenses-paid trip to next year's convention in New Orleans; and to Doris Carter, Auxiliary Unit 11, Frederick, Md., who won a Dodge Daytona Turbo.

• The Hopper Paper Division of the Georgia-Pacific Corporation, and Kansas City Power and Light were named Employers of the Year for Hiring Veterans.

• The American Legion Fourth Estate Awards went to four news organizations for their outstanding reporting on issues affecting youth. Recipients of the Golden Mike were WUNC-Radio, Chapel Hill, N.C., for its two-part series on day-care options for two-career and single-parent families; and KTVK-TV in Phoenix, Ariz., for its program titled: "Kids: How They Play, How They Need Us, How They Help Us." Golden Press awards went to the *Mail-Order Journal*, Milford, Ind., for its editorial on drug abuse and drunken driving; and to *The Ledger*, Lakeland, Fla., for its

series of articles on child abuse. *C-Span*, the cable news organization, won a special recognition.

The awards having been presented and the Legion's mandates decided upon for the coming year, convention delegates directed their spirit and enthusiasm to the election of Clarence M. Bacon, Hyattsville, Md., as the National Commander for 1984-85. His election was completed by acclamation when National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle was authorized to cast a single vote on behalf of all delegates.

In his acceptance speech, Cdr. Bacon said, "Our nation is emerging from a period when its citizens were searching desperately for a national meaning, a purpose, a common sense of destiny.

"What we are seeing today is that search being gratified. There is excitement about the future. Americans once again are confident in themselves and in our nation.

"I say to you without fear of contradiction, The American Legion has played a major part in renewing that confidence, by providing the stability and consistency of the traditional American way of life. We carry the

**IT'S UNANIMOUS**—Showing their enthusiasm and unified purpose of mission, Legionnaires voted to elect Cdr. Bacon by acclamation.

torch of active involvement into every facet of American life, and our contributions are vital to the very existence of the nation.

"You have my promise that as your national commander, I will use every resource available to this great veterans organization to keep The American Legion's beacon of hope and inspiration bright for America."

Also selected were the vice commanders: Harold E. Collett, Idaho; Stewart R. Kunde, Minn.; Stephen J. Mikosky, Pa.; Robert S. Turner, Ga.; and Ronald D. Birk, Kan. Newly appointed national officers were Charles G. Rice Jr., N.Y., national chaplain; Charles A. St. Clair, Md., national sergeant-at-arms; and Roy R. Mahoney, Fla., national historian. Reappointed officers were Robert W. Spanogle, Mich., national adjutant; Phillip B. Onderdonk Jr., Md., national judge advocate; and Webber LaGrange, Ind., national treasurer.

Thus ended the 66th national convention. And the 15,000 Legionnaires and their families, who had gathered to decide the Legion's course for 1984-85, returned home to their departments and the 16,000 posts they represented. There, through individual commitment and effort they will carry out the mandates they agreed upon in pursuit of their common goal: service to veterans, to their families and to America. □



## Meanwhile in New Orleans...

# Puerto Rico Post 134 Wins Legion Series

**C**heering fans, including one pounding out a cadence on a conga drum, swelled up around the baseball team from Jesus Bruno Post 134 after it pulled off a ninth-inning, come-from-behind victory to capture the 1984 American Legion Baseball World Series championship Sept. 3 in New Orleans.

The Guaynabo, P.R., team earned its 7-6 win over Brooklawn Memorial Post 72, Brooklawn, N.J., by beating the team that earlier had handed Guaynabo its only loss in the double-elimination tournament. Brooklawn was 4-0 in the tournament, played at the University of New Orleans' Privateer Park, when it suffered its first loss to Guaynabo, 5-2 in game 14. If Guaynabo had lost that game, Brooklawn would have won the series.

Victory came in the last inning of Game 15 when Guaynabo trailed Brooklawn, 5-6. Jose Marzan opened the final stanza with a single off losing pitcher Steve Mondile, the third Brooklawn hurler in that game. Marzan later stole second and advanced to third when Carlos Hermina laced a ball up the middle for what looked like an easy doubleplay.

But Brooklawn shortstop Bob Rivell's dive for the ball wound up inches short, leaving Marzan on third and a beaming Hermina on first. Javier Gonzales then tied the game with a single.

Thinking loaded bases make for easier outs, Mondile intentionally walked Jorge del Toro in an effort to force the game into extra innings.

Instead, Guaynabo's Jorge Hernandez, facing a 3-2 count, let the final hurl fly by, just a whisper inside. The winning "run" walked in.

Just as important as his players' performance was the strategy of Guaynabo manager Jose Centeno, who ordered Marzan to steal "because the catcher (Brooklawn's Mike Pavlik) had been hit by the ball on the previous pitch. I was thinking he might not be ready for the throw, even if we had a strikeout. When I saw the shortstop dive and miss the ball, I thought we had a good chance to win.

"It feels great to come from behind

to win, since we had two games the last day," Centeno said. "But Puerto Rico was not the only champion. Brooklawn played like a champion twice, too."

In the 14th game earlier that day, a do-or-die situation for Guaynabo, the champions jumped to an early, 5-0 lead after scoring four in the first and one in the sixth. Brooklawn scored in the sixth and the ninth to come out the loser, 5-2. Guaynabo finished the series, including the regional games, 34-7 overall, and Brooklawn wound up with a 35-10 record.

In addition to the 1984 title, Guaynabo players and coaches walked off with four of the seven national Legion baseball honors: Jorge Robles, the hustling shortstop for the champions, was named Player of the Year with a .441 batting average, including a Legion record six for six at-bats in a game against series' qualifier Umpqua Post 16, Roseburg, Ore., in game 10.

Jose Marzan, the Guaynabo centerfielder, won the Rawlings Big Stick

**SERIES WINNERS!**—*Exultant Guaynabo team members bask in pride after their hard-earned victory.*

Award for his series' total of 32 bases. Lino Rivera, Guaynabo's pitcher in game 14, won the Bob Feller Pitching Award for fanning 35.

Guaynabo coach Javier Centeno and manager Jose Centeno, shared the Jack Williams Memorial Award for adult leadership.

The James F. Daniel Jr. Sportsmanship Award went to Brooklawn pitcher John McGettigan, and the Dr. Irwin L. Cowger Memorial RBI Award went to Brooklawn right fielder Will Vespe, with 18. The Louisville Slugger Award for the best batting average went to Memphis Post 1 right fielder John D. Bradley with a .461.

The eight regional winners this year and the posts that sponsored them were: Seigheprey Post 2, Bristol, Conn.; Jenkins Post 254, Rockport, Ind.; Rapid City, Post 2, Rapid City, S.D.; Umpqua Post 16, Roseburg, Ore.; Las Vegas Post 8, Las Vegas, Nev.; Memphis Post 1, Memphis, Tenn.; and Brooklawn and Guaynabo.

The surviving teams were the best among 3,618 that started the season.

Leaders from the Department of Louisiana, National Americanism Chairman Dale Renaud and past National Vice Commander J. Leslie Brown Jr. attended the series, played as the national convention was getting under way in Salt Lake City. Billy Martin, the fiery former manager of the New York Yankees, was the featured speaker at the opening of the ceremonies. Martin played Legion ball for Post 7, Berkely, Calif.

The 1985 American Legion Baseball World Series will be played in Kokomo, Ind. □



# BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED . . .

## 66th NATIONAL CONVENTION ADOPTS 165 RESOLUTIONS

*Mandates for 1984-85  
stress improved veteran care  
and national defense*

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Milton S. Applebaum (Ill.), Chairman

**Res. 601** (Comm.) Provided for appointment of a special committee to study eligibility for membership.

### ECONOMICS

Frank A. Kelly (Ga.), Chairman

**Res. 12** (Okla.) Calls for Contract Compliance Program workshops nationwide.

**Res. 90** (Neb.) Supports legislation to require that local veterans employment representatives be veterans.

**Res. 168** (Ark.) Seeks to extend the Targeted Job Tax Credit program.

**Res. 216** (Mass.) Seeks full funding for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training.

**Res. 273** (Wis.) Requests increase in staff and support resources for The Employment Service.

**Res. 279** (Mo.) Urges extension of the Emergency Veterans Job Training Program.

**Res. 334** (Ill.) Seeks to establish the Regional Veterans Employment Representatives by law.

**Res. 430** (Utah) Urges all posts and departments to promote the jobs for Veterans program.

**Res. 417** (Calif.) Seeks legislation to change allocation of DVOP staff according to personnel needs.

**Res. 432** (Texas) Urges Congress to provide for veterans of all eras who are in need of employment/training assistance in all federally funded training programs.

**Res. 435** (Ga.) Seeks full enforcement of affirmative action by federal contractors dealing with veterans.

**Res. 592** (Comm.) Requires the DoL to maintain veterans preference in the "validity generalization" system for job referral purposes.

**Res. 100** (N.D.) Seeks legislation to extend Veterans Readjustment Appointments authority.

**Res. 257** (Texas) Urges OPM to fully support and promote the use of the special hiring authority for veterans with 30-percent disability.

**Res. 256** (Texas) Urges OPM to fully support and promote the use of the special hiring program for Vietnam-era veterans.

**Res. 440** (Ga.) Strongly supports veterans preference in federal hiring.

**Res. 305** (Minn.) Opposes contracting out of federal jobs legally reserved for veterans.

**Res. 27** (Utah) Urges each department to seek legislation to promote special consideration for veterans in state programs to promote small business.

**Res. 140** (Ariz.) Supports VA Home Loan Program.

**Res. 434** (Ga.) Urges full staffing and funding for the Veterans Office of SBA.

**Res. 593** (Comm.) Calls for a "National Employ the Older Worker Week."

**Res. 594** (Comm.) Reiterates support for U.S. Savings Bond Program.

### INTERNAL AFFAIRS

James P. Dean (Miss.), Chairman

**Res. 318** (Ill.) Supports legislation opposing the wartime relocation and internment of civilians.

**Res. 329** (Ill.) Urges that National Conventions be held before the last week in August in instances where contracts have not been signed or tentative dates set.

**Res. 602** (Comm.) Expresses appreciation to Convention host.

### LEGISLATIVE

Gary W. Sammons (Mich.), Chairman

**Res. 455** (Va.) Opposes elimination of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

Eugene V. Lindquist (Minn.), Chairman

**Res. 268** (Wis.) Urges that government provide sufficient investigators to enforce existing federal laws against pornography.

**Res. 137** (Ariz.) Deals with curbing violence and vandalism in schools.

**Res. 595** (Comm.) Reaffirms support for Immunization Program.

**Res. 597** (Comm.) Urges establishment of a "National Family Week."

**Res. 598** (Comm.) Urges increased efforts to eliminate Reye's Syndrome.

**Res. 596** (Comm.) Urges legislation to assist families of children experiencing catastrophic illness.

**Res. 599** (Comm.) Urges passage of PL 96-272, concerning adoptive children with special needs.

**Res. 600** (Comm.) Supports legislation enacting a special youth employment opportunity wage.

### AMERICANISM

Dale L. Renaud (Iowa), Chairman

**Res. 609** (Comm.) Calls for legislation and action necessary to deny communists the ability to infiltrate government.

**Res. 610** (Comm.) Urges restoration of House Internal Security Committee.

**Res. 611** (Comm.) Calls for restoration of Memorial Day to May 30.

**Res. 612** (Comm.) Reaffirms support of CIA and FBI.

**Res. 613** (Comm.) Opposes granting of general amnesty to illegal aliens.

**Res. 614** (Comm.) Urges that English be declared official language of U.S.

**Res. 615** (Comm.) Urges passage of legislation promoting voluntary school prayer.

**Res. 616** (Comm.) States Legion's position on illegal alien problem.

**Res. 617** (Comm.) Asks for legislation designating May 7 as "Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day."

**Res. 618** (Comm.) Asks that the Immigration and Nationality Act be amended to classify as "special immigrants" Filipino alien veterans who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces.

**Res. 619** (Comm.) Calls for legislation making George Washington's birthday a national holiday.

**Res. 620** (Comm.) Calls for amendment to the U.S. Flag Code.

**Res. 321** (Ill.) Urges implementation of patriotic programs in public and private schools.

**Res. 607** (Comm.) Reaffirms Legion's opposition to private initiatives undertaken by American citizens to affect foreign policy of the U.S.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

William F. Lenker (S.D.), Chairman

**Res. 51** (Hawaii) Urges the VA to provide career-conditioned status to certain employees in the Readjustment Counseling Service Program.

**Res. 81** (Tenn.) States the Legion's policy on providing certain benefit payments separate from those payable to disabled veterans.

**Res. 83** (Tenn.) Urges the expansion of VA's Geriatric Research, Education Clinical Centers Program.

**Res. 105** (N.D.) Urges Congress to provide sufficient VA health care facilities for the treatment and care of the non-service-connected disabilities of war veterans.

**Res. 108** (N.D.) Urges Congress to provide full funding for all veterans' programs.

**Res. 110** (N.D.) Opposes any recommendations of the Presidential Task Force that would eliminate or curtail veterans benefits or hospital care and treatment.

**Res. 188** (Pa.) Opposes OPM/OMB proposal to implement reduction in VA DM&S grade GS/GM 11-15 position categories.

**Res. 275** (Wis.) States the Legion's policy on National Health Insurance.

**Res. 277** (Wis.) States the Legion's policy on "mainstreaming medical services to veterans."

**Res. 289** (Mo.) Supports legislation to rename the VA Medical Center, Poplar Bluff, Mo., the "John J. Pershing Veterans Administration Medical Center."

**Res. 346** (Ill.) Supports legislation to make the VA an executive department.

**Res. 348** (Ill.) Opposes consolidation of operations of VA regional offices.

**Res. 422** (Calif.) Urges Congress to adequately fund the VA Health Care System construction program.

**Res. 423** (Calif.) Opposes reduction of any federal benefit by offsetting VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.

**Res. 424** (Calif.) Opposes legislation providing for third-party reimbursement.

**Res. 528** (Iowa) States policy on Agent Orange.

**Res. 529** (Iowa) States the Legion's policy on radiation exposure cases.

**Res. 530** (Iowa) Urges that radiation exposure cases be entitled to medical treatment on a presumptive basis.

**Res. 542** (Mich.) Urges VA to develop a comprehensive health care program for the aging veteran.

**Res. 543** (Mich.) Opposes plans to transfer sole jurisdiction over veterans benefits and programs from VA.

**Res. 557** (Colo.) Urges Congress to assign priority to funding of VA Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs.

**Res. 558** (Colo.) Urges that veterans compensation, pension and readjustment allowances not be considered as benefits and entitlements, but as rights.

**Res. 103** (N.D.) States the Legion's policy on improving the National Cemetery System, and on death and burial benefits for veterans.

**Res. 403** (Md.) Pledges Legion assistance to states seeking matching cemetery grants.

**Res. 199** (Ohio) Supports legislation to mandate that prescriptions written by non-VA physicians be honored by VA for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

**Res. 207** (Ohio) Urges Congress to adequately fund VA medical research program.

**Res. 309** (Minn.) Opposes a user fee on veteran patients; unjustified restrictions on beneficiary travel.

**Res. 313** (Minn.) Supports legislation to permit states to receive VA assistance for acquisition and rehabilitation of certain facilities.

**Res. 491** (P.I.) Supports legislation to restore the grants-in-aid program and nursing home care to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in P.I.

**Res. 540** (Mich.) Supports annual review and revision of rates of reimbursement by the VA for care provided veterans in state veterans homes.

**Res. 32** (N.C.) Supports legislation protecting certain disability ratings held for 10 or more years.

**Res. 33** (N.C.) Supports legislation to amend 38 USC 314(K) to add the loss of one lung or loss of one kidney to list of anatomical-loss or loss-of-use disabilities.

**Res. 82** (Tenn.) Supports legislation to increase the veterans burial plot allowance to \$250.

**Res. 84** (Tenn.) Supports legislation to waive one-year presumptive period and one-year limit on retroactive compensation payments to Vietnam veterans with disabilities related to Agent Orange.

**Res. 205** (Ohio) Supports a special pension program for WWI veterans.

**Res. 206** (Ohio) Asks that Title 38 USC Section 314 be amended to provide a two-year presumptive period for psychosis for any veteran who served 90 days or more during wartime.

**Res. 223** (Mass.) Supports legislation to provide that compensation received from work incentive programs shall not be counted as income for pension purposes.

**Res. 276** (Wis.) Supports legislation to improve disability and death pension program.

**Res. 347** (III.) Supports legislation to increase the monthly rates of dependency and indemnity compensation payments.

**Res. 442** (Ga.) Supports legislation to restore payment of burial allowance; increase allowance to \$400.

**Res. 443** (Ga.) Supports legislation to increase monthly rates of disability compensation.

**Res. 479** (Va.) Supports legislation to provide service connection for Lupus Erythematosus in certain cases.

**Res. 532** (Iowa) Supports legislation to pay a clothing allowance to veterans with a compensable skin condition where there is clothing spoilage.

**Res. 533** (Iowa) Supports legislation to increase amount of pension to certain veterans who are furnished domiciliary, hospital or nursing home care.

**Res. 538** (Mich.) Supports legislation to remove the restriction against the receipt of armed forces retirement pay concurrently with VA compensation.

**Res. 552** (Colo.) Supports legislation to provide a seven-year presumption period for Syringomyelia.

**Res. 477** (Va.) Supports legislation to increase allowances in education and training under Chapter 34, Title 38 USC.

**Res. 204** (Ohio) Supports legislation to provide a special government life insurance program for Vietnam-era veterans.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

Melvin "Doc" Simon (Vt.), Chairman

**Res. 63** (Vt.) Deals with curbing incidence of and publicity accorded to acts of terrorism.

**Res. 65** (Vt.) Supports National Endowment for Democracy.

**Res. 365** (Md.) Supports continuation of foreign aid.

**Res. 366** (Md.) Urges withdrawal from UNESCO; elimination of espionage operations within U.N.

**Res. 506** (Iowa) Supports decision not to sign Law of Sea Treaty.

**Res. 481** (Va.) Supports U.S. policy of constructive engagement with South Africa.

**Res. 69** (Vt.) States policy on nuclear arms control.

**Res. 143** (Ariz.) Supports aid to modernize Turkey's armed forces.

**Res. 258** (Texas) Urges U.S. to persevere in efforts to foster friendly relations with France.

**Res. 451** (Va.) Urges improvement of conventional forces committed to NATO.

**Res. 142** (Ariz.) Reiterates unqualified support for the Republic of China.

**Res. 210** (Alaska) Reaffirms support for official commitments to Republic of Korea; supports sale of weaponry to same.

**Res. 211** (Alaska) Supports reestablishment of full diplomatic and military relations with Republic of China.

**Res. 212** (Alaska) Supports immediate sale of F-20 fighter aircraft, Harpoon anti-ship missiles and other weaponry to Republic of China.

**Res. 356** (Md.) Asks that U.S. encourage Japan to contribute its fair share to its own defense; develop equitable trading practices with U.S.

**Res. 418** (Calif.) Urges accounting for Korean War POW/MIA.

**Res. 454** (Va.) Opposes U.S. according diplomatic recognition to Vietnam as a means of obtaining information about our POW/MIA.

**Res. 501** (Iowa) Supports actions aimed at obtaining full accounting for POW/MIA from Indochina.

**Res. 547** (Colo.) Urges all departments to establish active POW/MIA committees.

**Res. 67** (Vt.) Seeks continuation of economic sanctions against Cuba.

**Res. 68** (Vt.) Urges U.S. to provide economic and military aid to El Salvador.

**Res. 79** (Vt.) States position on Caribbean Basin.

**Res. 101** (N.D.) Urges Congress to approve and fund the Jackson Plan.

**Res. 102** (N.D.) States Legion's policy on Nicaragua.

**Res. 259** (Texas) Reaffirms support of actions taken in Grenada.

**Res. 282** (Mo.) Urges U.S. to continue trying to influence Guatemalan government to evolve toward democracy.

**Res. 283** (Mo.) Encourages U.S. to provide economic and military assistance to Honduras.

**Res. 284** (Mo.) Urges U.S. to increase emphasis on Mexico/U.S. cooperative endeavors.

**Res. 357** (Md.) Urges U.S. to extend to Brazil economic and security assistance.

**Res. 363** (Md.) Asks U.S. to provide necessary economic aid to help Costa Rica regain prosperity.

**Res. 354** (Md.) States Legion's policy on Middle East.

**Res. 393** (Md.) Urges USN and USMC to develop ARAPAHO for merchant ships.

**Res. 604** (Comm.) Opposes CSX/American Commercial Barge Lines, Inc. merger.

**Res. 605** (Comm.) Calls for redocumenting of Cunard Princess and Cunard Countess as U.S. flag vessels.

**Res. 606** (Comm.) Urges Congress to modernize Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway system.

**Res. 60** (D.C.) Urges Congress to fund Selective Service's expansion of reserve forces program.

**Res. 61** (D.C.) Asks Congress to fund Army strategic mobility improvements.

**Res. 74** (Vt.) Calls for development of chemical warfare defense system.

**Res. 130** (Mont.) Supports retention of military commissary system.

**Res. 131** (Mont.) States Legion's position on contemplated changes to military retirement system.

**Res. 181** (Pa.) Supports adequate funding for space parts acquisition programs.

**Res. 239** (Ind.) Supports total force policy.

**Res. 384** (Md.) Supports a military draft program.

**Res. 387** (Md.) Calls for increase in PCS allowances for armed forces.

**Res. 462** (Va.) Urges Congress to fund an effective education incentive program.

**Res. 550** (Colo.) Supports legislation to prevent IRS from disallowing interest deductions on home purchases paid for with military quarters allowance.

**Res. 555** (Colo.) Supports legislation to extend the termination date of the Vietnam War education benefits for servicemen who make military a career.

**Res. 603** (Comm.) Supports maintenance of the Selective Service System.

**Res. 388** (Md.) Calls for modernization of USN.

**Res. 475** (Va.) Calls for modernization of USCG.

**Res. 394** (Md.) Calls for use of ARAPAHO to fulfill naval reserve missions.

**Res. 526** (Iowa) Supports strong USN and USMC reserve components.

For a copy of the complete text of any of the resolutions, write to The American Legion, Office of Archives, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206



**DELEGATE DUTY**—A Montana delegate reads through a proposed resolution.

National Finance Commission

# Investing in the Legion's Future

**T**his seven-member commission is charged with ensuring that the assets of The American Legion are prudently, profitably and professionally managed so there will be sufficient funds available to carry on the many programs and services mandated by our charter and required by our membership," said National Finance Commission Chairman Walton D. Griffin, a Tennessee Legionnaire, banker and businessman.

"Neither this commission, nor the national treasurer, nor the Finance Division accepts that responsibility lightly," he said. "Our primary concern is that all Legionnaires get the maximum benefit out of every dollar they spend in dues, because they are investing more than just their money. They are investing their trust in our good judgment to properly manage the assets of this corporation."

For more than 65 years, that trust has been well founded, as evidenced by the vast array of significant programs and services today's American Legion provides for the benefit of all veterans and their families. "This kind of growth doesn't happen by accident," Griffin said. "It's the result of member dedication and involvement, and of strict adherence to a spending, budgeting and investing philosophy that is flexible enough to take advantage of opportunities, yet rigid enough to guarantee the safety of our assets."

In that regard, one primary responsibility of the Finance Commission is to recommend a national operating budget for the approval of the National Executive Committee, and to oversee the investments of the national organization. "In all of our investments," Griffin said, "we are guided by a philosophy that emphasizes 'conservatism with moderate growth potential.' We don't make speculative investments—no stocks or bonds; all of our investment capital is put into various types of government securities."

Keeping track of Legion finances is a responsibility of primary importance to commission members, who hold formal meetings four times a year and



are always "on call." Assisting them are the national treasurer, who is charged with managing the investment portfolio to ensure a reasonable return and adequate cash flow to meet the daily needs of National Headquarters, and the director of finance who, along with seven division employees, perform the myriad tasks essential to administering the national budget.

"There are no secrets about the finances of The American Legion," said National Treasurer Webber LaGrange, an Indiana Legionnaire and banker. "Every dollar of income—and

**FINANCIERS**—Walton D. Griffin, Finance Commission chairman (left), Paul M. Allen, Finance Division director (ctr.), and Webber LaGrange, National treasurer, help manage the Legion's finances.

every penny that is spent—is set out in detail in my annual report to the National Convention. Not nearly so well publicized are the behind-the-scenes efforts of the Finance Division staff tending to the daily accounting."

Tending to that daily accounting is neither simple nor routine. In the course of a month, the Finance Divi-

sion processes from 3,500 to 5,000 checks in payment of various national expenses; records and processes membership dues forwarded by the 58 departments; calculates and prepares the payroll for 268 national employees located in Indianapolis, Washington, D.C. and satellite offices; and ensures that all transactions are properly recorded via a sophisticated computerized accounting system.

Additionally, the division provides a monthly financial statement of expenditures, income and a line-by-line budget status to each national division director and the executive officers. It also verifies receipts emanating from investment income, donations, trust funds, American Legion Magazine advertising sales, and the sale of emblematic materials.

The typical division day begins before dawn when a skeleton crew starts sorting the day's receipt of letters, invoices and receivables. During the course of a year, they log in more than 1,500,000 pieces of correspondence.

## **"Keeping track of Legion finances is a responsibility of primary importance."**

"Every one of those items has to be individually handled and accounted for," said Paul M. Allen, director of finance. "To facilitate this and ensure accountability, we have developed a detailed system of checks and balances. No financial transaction taking place at the National Headquarters level can be completed without the knowledge and approval of at least four employees, one of whom is usually a national officer."

"This is a very important safeguard," Allen said, "especially when you consider the number of entries necessary every day in a corporation of this size."

For example, the sale of regalia and other materials bearing the Legion emblem accounts for more than 65,000 transactions each year, all of which

must be properly recorded and processed. This particular service falls under the immediate supervision of the National Emblem Committee, one of five committees and trusts that report to the Finance Commission.

Chaired by Frank Johnston (Ill.), the 12-member National Emblem Committee and the 28 employees of the Emblem Sales Division are responsible for accurately and efficiently filling orders for emblematic and patriotic materials.

"During a typical year, we sell more than 2,000,000 items," said Alfred L. Lankenau Jr., general manager of Emblem Sales. "In addition to orders received at the various department and national conferences, we process telephone and catalog orders from all over the free world. Thanks to computerization and the professionalism of our staff, we are able to fill and ship most orders within 72 hours."

By far, the most popular item bought by the Legion family is the American flag. "Each year we sell 300,000 or more," Lankenau said. "That makes The American Legion one of the largest—if not the largest—distributors of flags in the nation. Perhaps the second most requested item is the Legion cap, which we sell at cost," he said, "to encourage every Legionnaire to wear it to meetings and patriotic observances."

The revenue generated by the sale of emblematic merchandise, as well as that from all other sources, is allocated to the various special projects and divisions overseeing Legion programs based on legally mandated disbursals and, in large part, the recommendations of the Finance Commission's team of bankers, lawyers and business executives.

"It's a responsibility closely scrutinized at all levels of The American Legion from the National Commander to the grassroots Legionnaire. Each member, regardless of his or her level of involvement has a vested interest in the management of Legion funds, and the Finance Commission is acutely aware of the degree of accountability on its shoulders."

"An outsider might think we concern ourselves only with the expenditures of large sums and tend to let the small vouchers pass without much thought," Griffin said. "But that's not



**EMBLEM SALES**—Legionnaires buy more than two million items a year.

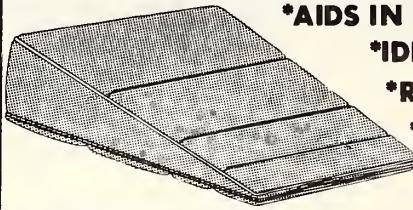
the case in The American Legion."

"Each of us is a Legionnaire, a dues-paying member who pays \$5.50 a year to National Headquarters to help defray the cost of providing Legion benefits and services. I think that alone gives us a unique perspective of our responsibility. When we are tasked with recommending approval of a \$5,000 expenditure, for instance, we of course consider it in view of our overall budget, but we go one step further," Griffin said. "We consider that it will take the annual dues of nearly 1,000 Legionnaires to pay for that expense, and we weigh its importance from that perspective as well."

Finance Commission members are rarely in the limelight. They, like the small group of professionals they oversee, perform their functions quietly, effectively.

"We are here to serve," said Chairman Griffin. "Our reward is knowing that the programs of The American Legion are operating efficiently, effectively and with adequate funds to meet the expectations of Legionnaires the world over. That's the type of service we can all be proud of." □

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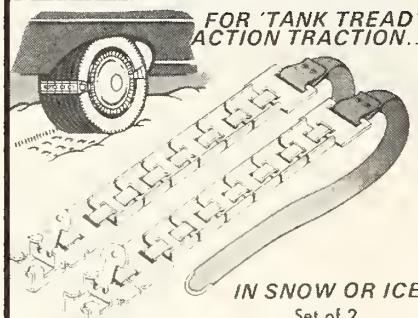
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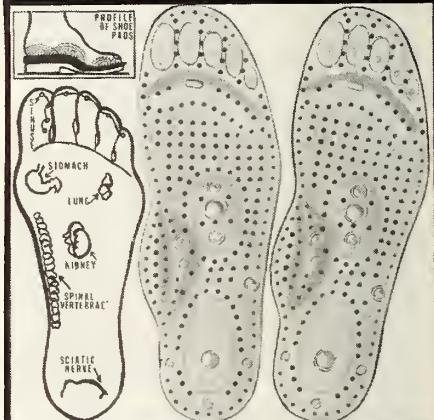
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Greensboro, N.C., Cone Post 368

## Cashing In on Cone Post Coneys

**T**his is a story about a post that runs on hot dogs.

Cone Post 368 is located in a section of Greensboro, N.C., that was once a company town to the Cone Mills Corporation, one of the world's largest manufacturers of denim and corduroy. Although annexed long ago into Greensboro, a city of about 155,000, many who live there still call themselves "Mill Village" residents.

The post was organized in 1947 by a group of Cone employees who took seriously the Legion's challenge to serve their community. They sponsored a baseball team, organized Christmas parties for children, aided the elderly and helped men in the VA hospital in nearby Salisbury. They were much like the members of thousands of other posts, except that they didn't have the luxury of owning their own post home.

That changed in 1963 after three significant events: the post baseball team made it to the Legion's national finals; the Cone family donated a building for use as a post home; and members started selling hot dogs to raise money to maintain their post and to provide additional support to community projects.

The baseball team is long gone, but the post and its every Saturday, September-to-May hot dog sales continue to thrive. And so do the services the post performs for this tightly-knit community that lies northeast of Greensboro's city center.

Post members sponsor three youth football teams and provide uniforms to team members; serve as volunteer coaches; provide money, food and gift baskets to area needy, especially senior citizens; send money to the VA medical center in Salisbury for patients' gifts, and sponsor Easter egg hunts for area children.

The post also sends children to summer camp, and four years ago began providing and placing flags on veterans' graves. Members have also helped veterans in temporary financial difficulties, including some just traveling through Greensboro. The post home also is used for meetings of the White Oak Women's Club, the local Disabled American Veterans group,



***"We see the whole community—especially her veterans, elderly and children—as our project."***

the Ex-POWs of Greensboro and for weddings and anniversaries, said Post Adjutant Bud Haithcock.

Today, the hot dog sales not only support the post's philanthropy, but also serve as a weekly "get together" for hundreds of people. Friends of the post, including Greensboro Mayor John Forbis, regularly gather at Cone Post to discuss town and post news and to just swap stories. While they eat and "jaw," the 70-cents-per-dog they gladly pay supports much of what continues to be their own community within Greensboro. They can easily see the benefits provided by the 96 post members, most of whom take turns working at the sales.

Although no one knows exactly how the hot dog idea came about, no one wonders about the secret behind its success: it's in the sauce!

About the time of that first sale in 1963, member Worth Murray discovered the ingredients of a favorite meat topping once sold in the old Cone company store around the turn of the century. Murray spent every Friday

night from September to May perfecting the concoction, many times with fellow Legionnaires at his elbow chopping onions and preparing and mixing other ingredients. The sauce was a smashing success.

One of the volunteers who worked with Murray was Jerry Hawks, a Vietnam veteran serving his second consecutive term as post commander. When master chef Murray eventually had to give up his cooking duties, Hawks took over the tangy topping, hoping to match the appeal of Murray's original.

"I didn't kill anybody with it," he said, "so they let me keep making it."

Even though the post doesn't sell hot dogs in the summer, for years it has made them for local Fourth of July picnics. At one picnic, members made 10,000 hot dogs. Special orders, with the buns, dogs and jars of sauce packed separately, have been sent as far as Florida. Free dogs are also given to senior citizens, and are taken to a nearby home for the handicapped.

Leroy Shuping, department judge advocate and a practicing attorney in Greensboro, said, "This post is a sterling example of the dedication and innovation found in all Legionnaires, and is a success story of how those efforts can be united to serve people." Shuping, who is not a member of the post, added, "They are an outstanding group of men who contribute mightily to the well-being of their community. They are very highly regarded by the people in that area."

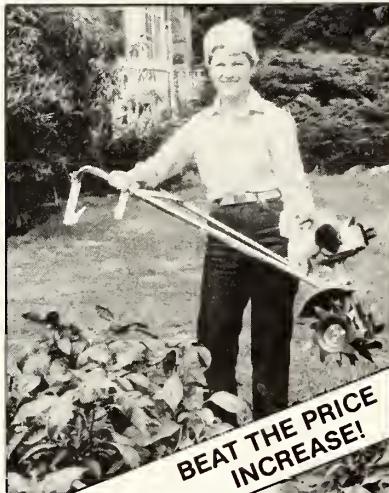
Dewey L. Trogdon, chairman and chief executive officer of Cone Mills, said, "Since 1947, these Legionnaires have been inspired by the preamble to their constitution: 'To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.' "

Rev. Jesse Alberty, the post's chaplain for 25 years and department chaplain the last seven, added, "This is a community post. We see the whole community—especially her veterans, elderly and children—as our project. Our members are constantly looking for new ways to serve the folks here."

And as new ways are found, Cone Post 386 will almost certainly fund them with Cone's Coneys. □

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## NEWS TO USE

**Fuel Will Be Plentiful** this winter for home-heating, and prices won't vary appreciably from last year. Here's the outlook:

**Oil:** Costs will be the same or less than last winter. **Gas:** About the same as last year through December. After that, minor increases may appear in some areas. **Electricity:** A 5- to 7-percent hike, depending on where you live.

**College Financial Aid** is available for the 1985-86 academic year, but you should apply now. The earlier you apply, the better. Financial aid forms (FAFs) being distributed by high schools and colleges tell how most colleges determine the amount of assistance you qualify for—the pot is estimated at \$15 billion. Send your completed FAF to the College Scholarship Service, which will process and forward it to the institution of your choice. Cost: \$7 for the first college, \$5 for each additional.

Meantime, check other avenues for assistance and scholarships. For copies of the latest edition of the Legion's "Need A Lift?" booklet, send \$1 to National Emblem Sales, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206. If you act quickly, you may even get some money for the current academic year.

**Low-Alcohol Beverages** are proliferating as the trend toward moderation grows. Latest market entries include low-alcohol beers and even non-alcohol beers and wines.

By far the fastest-selling newcomers are "wine coolers." They're a mixture of wine and soft drinks or fruit juices with an alcohol content of between 4 and 6 percent. Some six million gallons were produced last year. This year looks like eight million or more. Result: Most big wine makers will push them heavily. As for other potables, "hard" liquor sales are slowly drifting down and beer sales have been tapering off, leading to occasional price cutting.

**Record Mail-Order Sales** will hit \$50 billion this year. While buyers obviously find this method of shopping convenient, the boom is luring so many new companies into the field that sporadic failures are inevitable. To protect yourself, never send cash payments, keep records of your order and remittance, and put complaints into writing. Also, remember that the seller is required by law to ship your order within 30 days—unless otherwise specified. If that's not possible, you have the option of a refund or later shipping date. As a last resort in disputes, write to the consumer complaint agency in the state where the seller is located.

**Electronic Keyboards Will Star** this Christmas in the musical instrument field. Where sales of guitars and organs have been slipping, keyboard popularity is zooming.

A keyboard, which looks like a miniature version of a piano keyboard, is a portable, self-contained electronic device that produces a variety of tones, some original, some imitations of other musical instruments. You may buy one for as little as \$50, but figure on \$150 to \$200 for a version that has quality and versatility. Prices go as high as \$1,500.

**Bargains Will Be Available** in upcoming months as ship lines scramble for more cruise business. The recent popularity of cruises caused the industry to overestimate demand. Now they have more space than they can fill. Also the strength of the dollar is prompting foreign lines to cut prices.

Investigate packages that include free air fare to ports; no charge for an extra passenger; reduced prices for early booking; and fares geared to length of cruise—the longer, the cheaper. Your best bet is to work through a travel agent who is acquainted with the gamut of lines, packages and fares. □

By Edgar A. Grunwald

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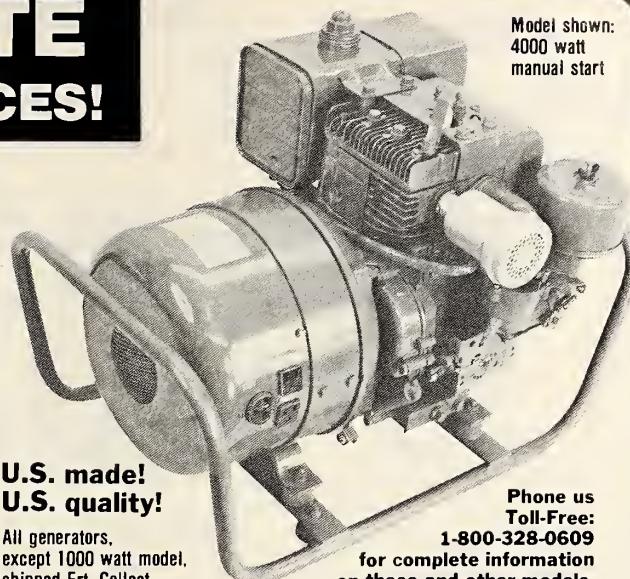
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## Afghanistan

Continued from page 21

cenaries. "But later we found out that we were actually fighting the Afghan people from the villages," he said.

In 1983, I made two more trips to Afghanistan interviewing Soviet soldiers, the second time for Australia's "60 Minutes," and the third time for *Life* magazine. I spoke with 13 Soviet prisoners.

During the interviews with some of them, I was told, "Soviet troops are killing everything that is alive in Afghanistan." One of them told me that he often found pieces of human flesh clinging to the treads as he repaired tanks. Two members of tank crews said that they could no longer watch Afghan villages and people crumble before their tanks. "This war is dishonest," they said.

Two soldiers said on camera that they would like to come to the United States because they will be shot or put into prison if they return home. However, some POWs still wish to go home, most often because they miss their families, which is understandable: the average age of the soldiers is 19.

As of late September, nine Soviet army defectors who asked for asylum are now in the West, six in the U.S., two in Great Britain and one in West Germany. This number does not include the few who are being held by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Switzerland.

Two other Soviet soldiers, like all

**SOVIET BOOTY**—To continue their quest for freedom, Afghans must rely on a shaky supply system from outside sources and captured Soviet weapons.

others I spoke to after their defections, told me that the majority of Soviet troops smoke hashish. One young recruit told me, "When you're high it's not so frightening to die, and it's so easy to die here."

I was particularly struck by the extent of the viciousness reported within the Red Army. New recruits arriving in Afghanistan are immediately humiliated and mistreated by senior enlisted men who have served at least one year or more and who therefore feel superior.

"On the second day of my arrival in Afghanistan I was already treated like an animal by the others," said Sgt. Alexei Peresleni, a 20-year-old Muscovite. Alexei described how he had to do the older men's laundry, make their beds and even entertain them with songs and dances. He was also often beaten, "for nothing . . . if you *really* did something wrong, they would kill you," he added.

In retaliation, some young soldiers resort to violence. Four of the most recent arrivals in the U.S. said some draftees take out their anger by throwing grenades into tents where senior men sleep, or by placing explosives into the wheels of armored personnel carriers being driven by the older men. Some of the seniors were shot in the back by the younger recruits. Some draftees commit suicide.

The exact number of Soviet casualties in Afghanistan is not known, but whenever I cite the NATO estimate of 5,000, Soviet POWs say this figure is much too low. During the 1982 Soviet offensive on the Panjshir Valley alone, I was told 2,000 Soviet troops were killed. Most estimates place the total Soviet deaths at 20,000. People in Moscow are well aware of the deaths in Afghanistan because "many mothers who have lost their sons are writing angry letters to Soviet leaders in Moscow," Peresleni said.

Continued on page 44



# "Vitamin Side Effects Revealed"

An Interview with Frank K. Wood, President, F C & A

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## Afghanistan

Continued from page 42

### THE MUJAHEDEEN

The general attitude of the mujahedeen is that if a Soviet soldier comes to them voluntarily, he is to be accepted "as a brother." They also realize that Soviet teenage soldiers in Afghanistan are not responsible for the war. A defector eats the same food as the Afghans and is generally treated with care.

One faction of the mujahedeen, lead by Hekmatiar Gulbuddin, punishes Soviet soldiers if they do not participate in the namaz, the ceremonial Moslem prayer offered five times a day.

Although the mujahedeen have turned over Soviet POWs in good faith, mujahedeen prisoners held by the Soviets have not been returned.

If a Soviet soldier is captured in the heat of battle he may be executed on the spot, although even in battle situations many resistance commanders are now making greater efforts to take live prisoners.

It should be pointed out that keeping Soviet POWs is a difficult task for the guerrillas. There are no prisoner-of-war camps. In addition, whenever the Soviet commanders find out where Soviet POWs or other Soviet citizens are held, they try to attack the area in order to get them back. The Pakistan government does not want Soviet defectors or POWs on its territory, in fear of Soviet reprisals. Thus, the mujahedeen must lug their young charges up and down the mountains or conceal them in military strongholds.

### SOVIET CITIZENS

In the Soviet press Afghanistan has always been described as an operation involving "a limited contingent of Soviet troops" sent "in response to repeated requests" from the government of Afghanistan in order "to help the Afghan people repel aggression."

At the beginning of the occupation very little information appeared on Afghanistan. The few published articles usually described Soviet troops as planting trees and performing other good deeds. The Soviet people have not been informed by their government about what is actually happening in that country or what their young men are doing there. The Soviet citi-

zens' most reliable source of information has been foreign radio.

During the last year, however, articles on Afghanistan have appeared with increasing frequency in some Soviet newspapers, especially in the Red Army magazine *Krasnaya Zvezda* (The Red Star). Why the change? Probably because the war has now dragged on for five years with little change and no apparent victories for the USSR, while Soviet casualties keep mounting. Still, the Soviet press is not allowed to report that Soviet forces are actually taking part in operations against the mujahedeen.

Nonetheless, many Soviet citizens are aware they are not being told the truth about Afghanistan. Andrei Sakharov was the first Soviet dissident to speak out on Afghanistan. He was one of 11 Soviets who dared to sign the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group's Document 119, which attempted to speak for the majority of the Soviet people soon after the invasion of Afghanistan.

The three Baltic republics of the USSR have produced the most vociferous reactions to the invasion, ignited by the realization that they share with Afghanistan a very common fate. The first collective protest letter to come out of the Soviet Union, dated Jan. 17, 1980, was signed by 21 Latvians, Estonians, and Lithuanians. It pointed out that "The Baltic countries had similar treaties with the USSR, and in 1940 the Soviet Union used these treaties as a pretext to bring in troops."

Of the 21 signatories, four are now in prison; a fifth died in a labor camp, and another supporter has been forcibly committed to a psychiatric hospital since August 1980.

Some Russian military leaders are arrogant about their expected, eventual success. In the Jan. 14, 1984, issue of *Krasnaya Zvezda*, a Soviet general said, "Years will pass and I will go with my grandchildren to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan on a tourist pass."

The Soviet Union's designs on the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf are not concealed, any more than the construction of highways, apartment buildings for Soviet officers, bases and airports in Afghanistan.

To achieve this end—a pathway to the sea—the Kremlin is apparently concerned little, if at all, about either the brutalization of the Afghan people or the impact its aggression has on the Soviet soldier and Soviet citizen. What Moscow is concerned about is control, and to achieve that end, it views nothing it does as "wrong".

So . . . the rape of a nation and its people continues. □



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## DEFENSE

Continued from page 19

Anyone on the organization chart can say "no" to a job, or hold it up. Only the top people can say "yes."

At each staff level, there is a tendency to minimize the risk of displeasing higher administrative authorities, by calling for masses of information. By the time the program manager translates the actual situations facing him into the prescribed forms and by the time he answers the questions that follow, little time is left for him to manage his job.

It is proper to have civilian control of the military, but it is another thing to require everyone to agree to every-

**"In most cases, projects fail because of the absence of a man at the top who feels that he is personally responsible for the entire project."**

thing before anything can go forward.

Over the years, those who have led the Defense Department have tended to look for quick solutions to solve its management problems. They designate technically inexperienced persons as "project managers." The problem is then considered solved and at once forgotten. But these managers do not have the technical skill to see to it that their project is properly conceived and carried out.

The assumption is that a good military man, without prior experience or technical expertise, can run a weapons project. This notion wreaks havoc in technical work.

Where personal health is concerned, we insist that those in charge be qualified through training and experience. Why do we not insist that where the health of our nation is concerned, those in charge of complex technical projects be likewise qualified through training and experience?

I suggest that in most cases projects fail because of the absence of a man at the top who feels that he is personally responsible for the entire project. Short tours of duty by project managers are the surest way to insure

failure. In the Defense Department those who are running the projects are around generally for only two to three years. It takes that long simply to budget funds for a project, let alone do any work.

We have yet to come to grips with the way our military personnel are being assigned. This bears directly on the problems of poor quality and the high cost of our weapons systems.

Career officers are rotated frequently among jobs that often have little relationship to each other. A large number of jobs are thus held which gives the officer a resume that looks good to selection boards or in the private sector when he leaves the military. As Lord Acton asked, "Does this ship exist for the passengers or do the passengers exist for the ship?" The military should be run for the good of the nation, not for the career enhancement of its officers.

It is literally impossible to run a technical operation requiring sophisticated technology when the people in charge are rotated in and out of those assignments frequently. I don't care how superior the intellect of such individuals may be. Not every Navy line officer needs to be trained to become the Chief of Naval Operations.

I learned from many years of bitter experience that we could not depend on industry to develop, maintain and have available a technical organization capable of handling the design of complex ships and their equipment without the Navy itself having a strong technical organization to oversee the work in detail. Instead, the Navy has raised a generation of officers who believe that technical training is not essential and that they can rely on management techniques to make decisions. I believe the same problem exists in the other services and in industry, too.

To have men capable of taking charge of engineering development work, they must be trained over a period of years; they must have shown both technical and managerial talent, and they must stay on the job for many years.

Human experience shows that people, not organizations or management systems, get things done. For this reason subordinates must be given authority and responsibility early in their career.

Reducing excessive personnel rotation will save some money directly. The major savings, however, will come from leaving people on the job long enough to learn it and to be held accountable for results. Transients cannot operate the Defense Department.

*Continued on page 48*



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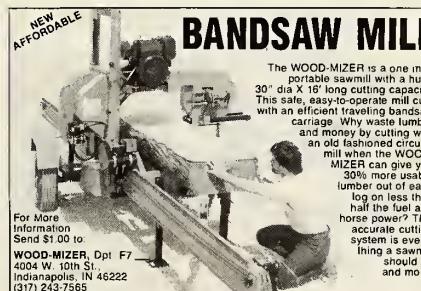
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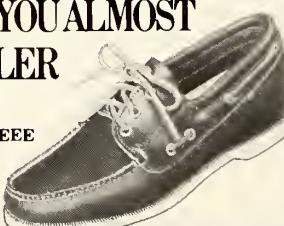


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## DEFENSE

Continued from page 47

ment properly nor is this the practice in any other business.

Failure to drastically reduce the number of organizational levels and to ensure proper training and continuity of personnel have traditionally been the most important shortcomings of the Defense Department. But there are other areas worth mentioning. The Defense Department should stick to its primary functions and not get bogged down in trying to implement social programs.

The Defense Department should be a demanding customer, not a partner of industry. In much of industry today, there is not enough pride of craftsmanship—pride in a job done right. Of late it seems that the Defense Department is taking a much

**"The military should be run for the good of the nation, not for the career enhancement of its officers."**

stronger stand with contractors on quality issues. This is sorely needed and long overdue. A customer can do this more effectively than a sympathetic "partner."

In summary, providing the United States with an adequate defense in this era of rapidly expanding technology, requires a thorough understanding of the capabilities, limitations and requirements of modern technology.

It requires adequate resources in people, material and industrial capabilities for the key problem areas. And these must be assigned on a continuing basis for a long period of time. They must be marshaled under the direction of experienced, dedicated and capable people.

There must be continuity of management and stable support of programs. There must also be careful selection and detailed training of personnel to design and operate weapons systems of every increasing complexity. This cannot be achieved without drastically reducing the number of organizational levels and without the stability of personnel assignments that is ultimately essential to success. □

## LETTERS

Continued from page 3

ington his much-needed gunpowder to help defeat the British. Even the French who came to help us then were made up of Irish Brigades.

Michael O'Conner  
New Port Richey, Fla.

Our so-called allies are always holding their hands out. Not for a handshake of thanks and gratitude, but for more money and foreign aid to build or buy weapons to trade or to sell to other countries that we'll be fighting again in the future.

Leo E. Winters  
Filmore, Mo.

## Defense

In your article, "Our Global Defense Commitments: Are We Spread Too Thin?" (August), your first question to Gen. Vessey was: "The U.S. is committed by treaty to help defend 41 nations around the world. Since we appear to be overextended in this respect, couldn't allied forces shoulder more of the load?"

I believe that your apprehension is well-founded, and relates to the warning issued by Sun Tzu who, in his treatise on "The Art of War," which was written about 500 B.C., expressed the principle: "If he (a general) sends reinforcements everywhere, he will be everywhere weak."

William H. James  
Northford, Conn.

## Unions

Mr. Kirkland, show me a contract that guarantees the employer that union members will produce quality work and meet performance requirements, and I might begin to believe that unions really have the well-being of the country in mind.

Carl Sieg  
Fairfax, Va.

## Kudos

I read with keen interest the Magazine each month. Kudos are in order to you and your entire staff. In every department—from the Commander's Message to Parting Shots—the vast audience is treated to a treasure chest of bright, crisp reporting and intelligent use of graphics. Insofar as general interest publications are concerned, it is without equal.

Tony Glaros  
Washington, D.C.

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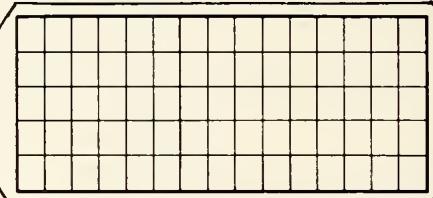
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*I don't know who coined the phrase, "We pass this way but once," but I think it was my waiter.*

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A number of people have retired from our office in the last few years and they always look so cheerful and relaxed and rested when they come in to chat and borrow lunch money.

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Scientists have just discovered why the new generation is taller than any previous generation. It's because the TV channel selectors are always at the top of the set.

I'm fascinated by that television commercial where the announcer holds his hands apart to show how much his product shrinks hemorrhoids. I always feel so sorry for the elephant that has them.

Bad news today. The Office of Management and Budget just phoned the Library of Congress. It wanted to know what number comes after a trillion.

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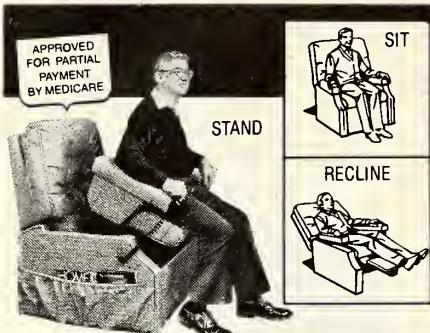
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E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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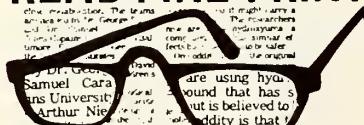
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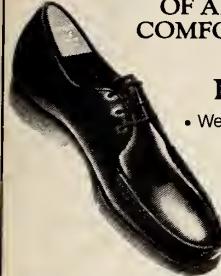
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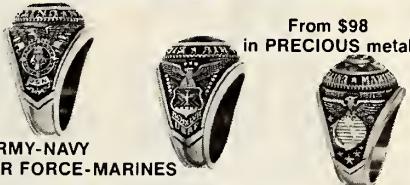
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# THE VETERAN

*Armed with a bugle and old memories, he came to pay final tribute to a fallen friend, or to declare that his own war was over. Or maybe both . . .*

---

By Jim Cox

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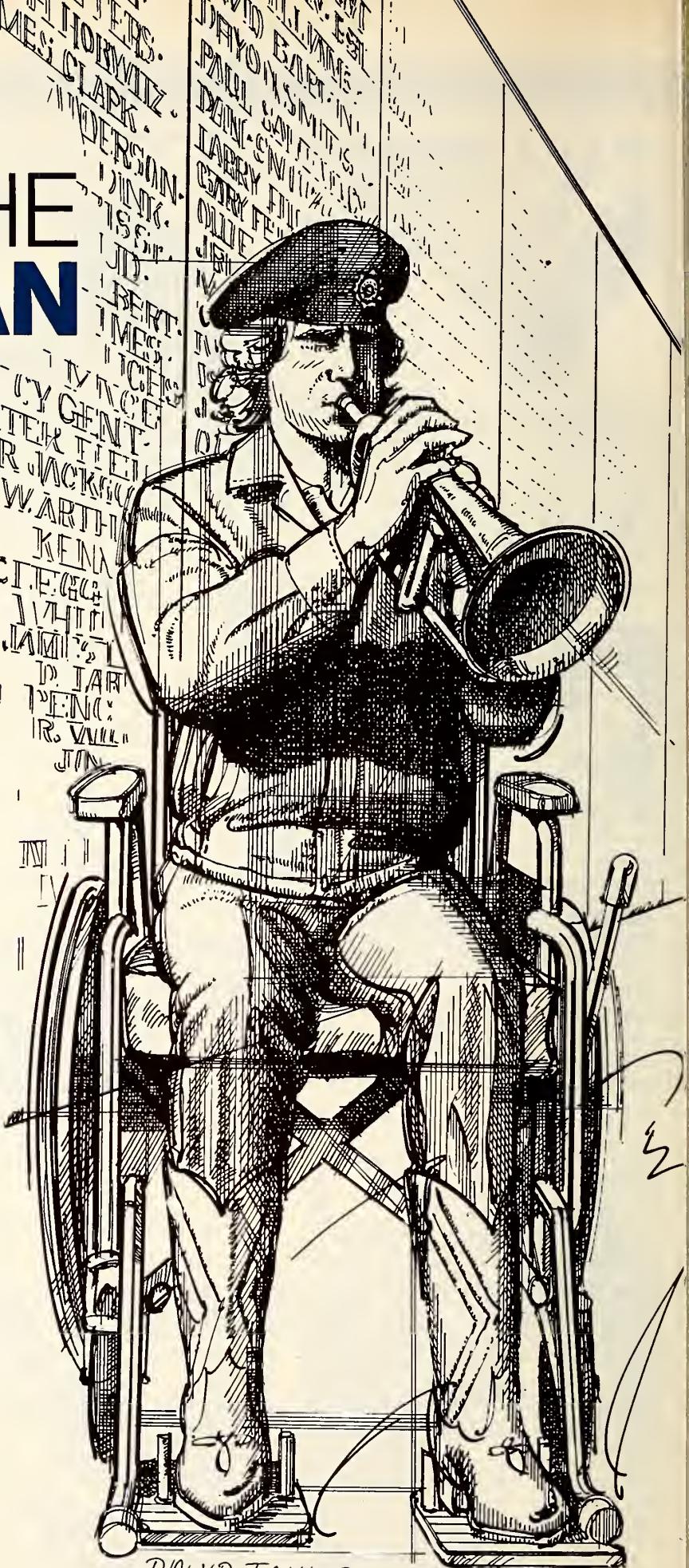
**T**HIS Veterans Day, when I watch the television news reports about ceremonies honoring veterans from America's wars, I'll recall an unforgettable afternoon I spent with a Vietnam veteran named P.J.\*

My brother Jack and I met P.J. on a Saturday more than a year ago in Washington, D.C., as we walked to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We were crossing Connecticut Avenue, about a half-mile from the memorial, when we passed a short, wiry man wearing a black beret, down winter jacket, jeans, and cowboy boots. It was the boots that caught my attention. I'd never before seen anyone in a wheelchair wearing cowboy boots.

I stopped at the far curb and walked back to the man in the wheelchair and asked him if he'd like a push.

"Wouldn't hurt," he said.

\*Editor's note: "P.J." is a real person, but his name has been changed to protect his privacy.



We introduced ourselves. He was P.J., from North Miami, just off a bus from Florida an hour before. He'd been to Washington the weekend the Memorial had been dedicated, but something—he didn't specify what—had prevented him from visiting the site then.

He didn't say much about himself, just that he'd been an Army private first class and had spent six months in Vietnam. His beret, with an American Legion emblem on it, was a gift from a Legion post in Cocoa Beach, he said.

As we talked and got to know each other, my brother and I took turns pushing P.J.'s wheelchair up Connecticut Avenue. The avenue at that point is on a slight incline, and I noticed when it came my turn to push how my breathing got heavy and how I felt my

through the directory, which is the size of a thick telephone book. Like many who've served in the military, P.J. could remember old friends by their last names, or their nicknames, or maybe just their ranks. But the names in the memorial book are full, formal names—last name, first name, middle initial, hometowns, unit, date of birth, and the date they died, or what the book calls "Day of Casualty."

So P.J. must have spent 15 minutes—at least—in his search. As he did, the line of visitors behind him waiting to use the book kept growing. But no one said a word. No one, I figured, was going to walk up to a Vietnam veteran sitting in a wheelchair and say, "Hey, buddy, speed it up, will you? Don't you know there's a lot of people waiting?"

So P.J. took his time, running down whole sections of Smiths and Martins and other names, looking for his buddies but not finding any. "Let's try one more," he said, flipping the pages back and locating a column he hoped would list his friend who had been killed. His finger ran down the page and stopped at an Army lieutenant's name, his friend who was killed in 1969.

"Yeah, that's him," P.J. said.

I pushed P.J. toward his dead friend's name, down a narrow path paralleling the seemingly endless line of glistening black marble slabs. P.J. was absorbed in the names chiseled on the stones.

Eventually we arrived at marble panel 19, and counted down eight lines of names. Chiseled in the stone, one name in from the left side, was the name of P.J.'s friend. My brother and I pushed the wheelchair closer to the polished stone so P.J. could read the name clearly.

"Yeah, I see it now," he said. "Thanks."

We left him sitting there to begin our own search for our cousin's name. We told him we'd pick him up on our way back. But as it turned out, our cousin's panel was just a few yards from where P.J. was sitting.

I had just found my cousin's name on the stone and was about to photograph it when I thought I saw a glint of gold reflecting on the marble. I looked to my right and saw, to my astonishment, that P.J. had brought with him, as his only baggage from Florida, an old, worn-looking bugle. He put the instrument to his lips and slowly began playing Taps.

When I was in the army I heard Taps played hundreds of times. What the song meant to me then was that the military day had ended, that it was time to sleep. And I had heard Taps played at a veterans' cemetery when

## "IT GOT GHOSTLY QUIET, EXCEPT FOR THE MOURNFUL SOUND OF THE SOLITARY BUGLE."

leg muscles straining. I hadn't realized before the amount of strength required to push a wheelchair.

When we reached the entrance to the memorial, three veterans wearing jungle fatigues sat at a table, collecting signatures on petitions requesting the U.S. government to continue searching for Vietnam prisoners of war and those still listed as missing in action. One of the veterans, like P.J., was in a wheelchair.

"How're you doing, buddy?" he yelled.

"As best I can," P.J. answered.

I pushed the wheelchair down a path to a directory containing the names of 57,000 Vietnam war dead, listed alphabetically. My brother used it first, locating on which of the black marble slabs we'd find the name of our cousin, an Army sergeant killed in 1969. Then it was P.J.'s turn.

P.J. took a long time looking

*Jim Cox, a former newspaper and television reporter, is president of his own media and political consulting firm in Cleveland.*

**"I'D HEARD TAPS HUNDREDS OF TIMES. BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME I FELT IT."**

my father was buried. But this was very different.

Strangely, all I could think of at that moment was that scene in the film, "From Here To Eternity," when Montgomery Clift, playing the role of Prewitt, with tears staining his cheeks, played Taps for his dead friend, Maggio. But Prewitt had been an Army bugler and a master of the instrument. P.J. wasn't.

Some of his notes were off-key and others stumbled and fell short. From a musical standpoint, it was probably the worst rendition of Taps I've ever heard. But for the first time, I really *felt* the music.

The hundreds of visitors at the memorial felt it, too. Everyone stopped. It got ghostly quiet, except for the sound of the solitary bugle. For a few brief moments, everyone there listened to the man sitting in the wheelchair playing his song.

I didn't know why, or for whom P.J. was playing Taps. Maybe it was for his friend, the lieutenant up there on the black marble, or for his buddies he left behind in Vietnam, or for those who made it through that hellhole and got home safely. Maybe he was playing just for himself. Maybe he was declaring that his own war was over.

I didn't know his motive then, and I don't know it now. I knew as I heard those plaintive bugle notes, however, that I'd never ask him. It had been his war, and this was his special moment, not mine.

After the last note sounded, P.J. rested the bugle on his lap. The crowd started moving again. It was as though all of us had been given permission to breathe once more. The war had been put back into the past. Life had resumed.

Leaving the memorial, the three of us signed the POW and MIA petitions. The veteran in the wheelchair called out again to P.J.: "Take care of yourself, buddy."

"I'll do the best I can," P.J. said. □



*"Bless his heart! He even turns firing someone into a fun thing!"*

### Definition

Bath mat: A small, round, dry rug wet children love to stand beside.

—Lane Olinghouse

### Honesty Pays

Sometimes it seems the only thing honesty pays is more taxes.

—Ivern Ball

### Workers' Worry

It seems as taxpayers we don't have to pass any civil service exams in order to work for the government.

—George E. Bergman

### Out of Pocket

There is this simple fact that I Am sure there is no doubt of: Money isn't everything Until it's what you're out of.

—S.H. Dewhurst

### Overloaded Question

Why do they have cars that will do over a hundred  
And still have extra power,  
When the maximum legal speed you can drive  
Is 55 miles per hour?

—Henry G. Miller

### Remote Control?

Customer to TV salesman: "I don't need 'remote control.' With four kids, my chances of controlling it are already remote!"

—Joni Cagle

### Social Insecurity

The pharmacist said, "I can fill this quite quick;  
It's really not much of a task."  
I smiled 'til he charged me the "Golden Age" rate,  
And I didn't even ask!

—Jeanne Wellenkamp

### Adam's Apple

The tailor answered thusly when asked why he used an apple for his trademark: "If it hadn't been for the apple, what need would there be for a tailor?"

—George E. Bergman

### Platter Matter

Tom Turkey was a nervous bird;  
His frantic wings beat fast.  
But now he's on this vestal plate,  
Unflappable at last.

—G. Sterling Lieby

### Evolution

If you still think that man came from monkeys,  
Here's proof that you've been kidded:  
They've never found a monkey yet  
Who was willing to admit it!

—Hans G. Mueller

### Tit For Tat

To stuff the holiday turkey  
The cooks are now intent.  
By the end of the day  
The turkey may  
Return the compliment.

—Ann Husk

### Generation Gap

It's difficult to pinpoint when one generation ends and the next begins . . . but in most homes, it's somewhere between 9 and 10 p.m.

—Lane Olinghouse



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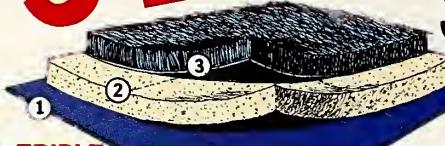
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